

Harwood Park Neighborhood Improvement Association February 2004 Notes

A meeting was held on Thursday, February 12, 2004, at the Harwood Park United Methodist Church Hall, from 7–8:30 pm. Betsy McMillion chaired this month's meeting.

Thank You: Mike Barnett and Kathy Kemp-Abrams for posting our neighborhood meeting signs; Ron Godfrey, Karen Keller, M. Pauline Lisle, John & Leo Neault, Dave Theilman and the One Stop Shop for allowing us to post community signs on their properties; George Bowers for making reminder phone calls about our meeting; Tracy Lowe for baking, bringing & selling cookies and beverages to raise funds; Gwenn Bowers for helping everyone sign in; Kathy Kemp-Abrams for securing the hall for us. Tracy Lowe & Gail Sigel for helping with set up and clean up of these meetings; members of the Harwood Park United Methodist Church for their generosity in letting us use their hall for our community meeting, and especially those who distribute community news to other neighbors.

Guest speaker: John Sindler, Commercial Land Broker, to explain plans for the Roberts property & US Route 1 near our neighborhood.

Extra copies of the VIADUCT newspaper, and various county brochures were available in the back near Gwenn.

Updates:

According to the State Highway Administration, right-of-way issues are holding up the installation of the traffic light at Loudon & US Route 1 due to the owner of the Capital Home Mobile Park. Neighbors were urged to contact any one they know living over at the mobile park to get in touch with the owner to expedite the process.

The County Council has approved new zoning adjacent to our neighborhood on the Roberts property that remains R-12 which means "single family homes" near our neighborhood, while the portion closest to US Route 1 has been rezoned B-1, which allows businesses. A portion of the original R-12 zoning was lost in order to allow the building of a grocery store off US Route 1. Based on comments made by Mr. Roberts at the meeting, his family may reconsider and not sell their property to the new owners adjacent to the property that is being developed into apartments and townhomes further south off US Route 1.

A request was made to Sandy Baker to ask Dave Grabowski, President, of the Greater Elkridge Community Association, if he had any updates from the county on the final rezoning along US Route 1 and update us at next month's meeting.

Part of Harwood Park's history includes the "Rifle Shooting Minute Women of Harwood Park." Our neighbor, Leo Neault, shared a copy of the picture of the Harwood Park women back in the 1940s who were determined to protect their homes in case of invasion by the Japanese during World War II. The picture was passed around.

The contractors were given approval by the county to begin construction on the Loudon Avenue sidewalk project the first week of January; however, the wet cold weather has delayed progress.

There is a meeting planned for Wednesday, February 18, with county engineers to discuss the traffic action committee's original request to install a sidewalk over top of the existing drainage ditch. Only one side of the road (closest to the railroad tracks) of Athol Avenue would be considered, from Loudon Avenue down to the bridge. Any neighbors are welcome to come. Those interested in attending should meet in front of 6759 Athol Avenue at 1:30 pm.

A new park arboretum site plan was printed on the reverse of the agenda. It shows 20 tree sites, featuring 13 different species. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for April 7 (during school children's spring break). A time will be announced in the future. A request was made to Sandy Baker to ask Dave Grabowski, member of the Howard County Recreation & Parks Board, if it would be possible to contact Rec. & Parks folks to see if the new kiosk could be built before the ribbon-cutting ceremony, since Gary Arthur stated in a letter that building of a kiosk was included in the FY 2004 budget for the spring of 2004.

We received a brochure about April 22, 27 & 29 public hearings/work sessions on the 2005 county's proposed capital budget program. If there are any new capital improvements to be requested for Harwood Park, we need to testify. No new requests were offered for discussion.

A request was made to use \$45 of the association's funds to cover a fee to insure that our association web page is picked up by all major search engines on the Internet. A majority were in agreement, however, Tracy Lowe (who has great expertise in web site design) said she would look into this that we would not need to spend the fee. It was suggested that we would wait until next month for further consideration, if needed.

A request was also made to purchase a new sign to advertise our web site and e-mail address for the community, with association funds to better improve communication. A majority of the neighbors attending were in favor of this purchase.

There was a request from the county's traffic engineer, whether or not neighbors would accept one-sided parking on Loudon Avenue and permanently close the road at Loudon and Anderson Avenues. The majority of the neighbors did not approve of the one-sided parking, nor closing the road.

Up to now, the association has focused on problems and concerns in our neighborhood. This year we would like to set up some "fund" activities (i.e. walking groups, park use, etc.). A sign up sheet was available in the back for any volunteers to help get this started.

At the next monthly community meeting, there will be free samples available from Jeanne's Gourmet in an effort to start a fund-raising activity for more community signs and park recreational activities.

Election of officers. After discussion with Dave Grabowski, President, of the Greater ElkrIDGE Community Association, it was suggested to Betsy McMillion that our organization have elected officials representing Harwood Park. He noted that some county officials had commented to him on concerns about persons having the authority to represent Harwood

Park on our neighborhood's issues. Please consider whether you or you have a neighbor in mind for next month's meeting that you would like to nominate as an officer for our organization. We will be voting for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Elections will be held at our next meeting.

Other new concerns or issues to be discussed:

Sandy Baker stated that a vehicle continues to park near the stop sign at the intersection of Highland and Loudon Avenues, causing a traffic safety hazard. It was discussed about what is the requirement for how far away a vehicle is allowed to park from the stop sign. Betsy McMillion volunteered to look it up in the county code and would forward the information to Sandy Baker before the next meeting. Sandy offered to place a copy of the code section on vehicle(s) parking illegally.

One of our neighbors recalled that there was a fatal accident in the 1960's near the corner of Loudon and Highland Avenues, where a young female college student was killed, and would bring information to the next meeting to be able to present to county officials as part of the traffic action committee's concerns.

John Sindler, representative for Trout, Segall & Doyle (broker of commercial property along US Route 1), arrived at 8 pm to the meeting. He gave an interview of the future commercial and residential plans along US Route 1 close to Harwood Park. He is familiar with the property owners along US Route 1. He offered to provide the community with the contact information about the owners of the Capital Home Mobile Park in order to try to expedite the traffic light process. Mr. Sindler requested neighbors contact him with any suggestions for what kind of businesses or services they would like to see along US Route 1. Mr. Sindler was available to answer specific questions from neighbors at the end of the meeting. He can be reached at 410-435-4000 ext. 212 or e-mail at jsindler@troutsegall.com.

Important Dates:

Wed., Feb. 18 – Athol Ave. Sidewalk Meeting with Public Works Engineers – 1:30 pm. Meet in front of 6759 Athol Ave.

Saturday, Feb. 21 – Elkridge Rotary Club Blood Drive – 9 am-2 pm – Grace Episcopal Church.

Tues., Feb. 24 – Free pancake supper at Harwood Park United Methodist Church – 5-7 pm.

RESCHEDULED FOR SAT., April 3 – formerly scheduled for Sat., March 13 - Park Clean Up – 9 am

Wed., April 7 – Ribbon Cutting ceremony for new Arboretum in Harwood Community Park – time to be announced

Sat., June 12 – Park Clean Up off Woodburn Ave. - 9 am

Sat., Sept. 11 – Park Clean Up off Woodburn Ave. - 9 am

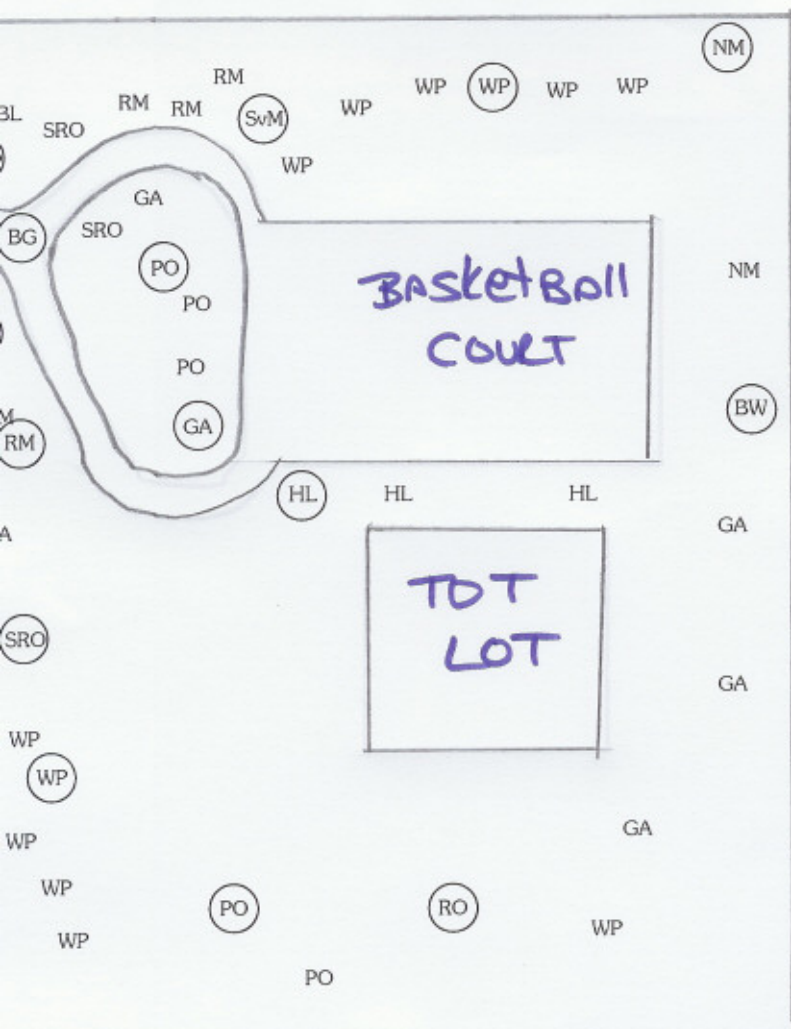
Sat., Nov. 13 – Park Clean Up off Woodburn Ave. - 9 am

The next meeting will be the second Thursday of the month, on March 11, 2004.

NOTE: The sign up sheet from this month's meeting was misplaced; as a result, attending neighbors could not be included as part of these minutes. If you notice any errors, omissions or needed additions to these notes, please tell us!

Future Aboretum

Trees at Harwood Park



Legend

- BG: Black Gum
- BL: Black Locust
- BW: Black Walnut
- GA: Green Ash
- HL: Honey Locust
- NM: Norway Maple
- PO: Pin Oak
- RM: Red Maple
- RO: Red Oak
- SRO: Southern Red Oak
- SvM: Silver Maple
- WO: White Oak
- WP: White Pine