

# Lyon Park Civic Association

January 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Elliot Mandel called the meeting to order at 7:33.

## Announcements

- The Pancake Breakfast is January 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM. Lots of great food and even better company. Volunteers are needed.
- New ship being commissioned called the U.S.S. Arlington. There will be a fundraising event for the ship on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 PM at the Army Navy Country Club. Michael O'Connor suggested that the LPCA Officers attend, and Joey Durishin suggested that the LPCA donate directly. Adam Rasmussen suggested giving at the \$250 level. The LPCA executive committee can take action to support this under the by-laws (without a full member vote as long as the amount is less than \$1000) and will discuss in time for the event on January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The Lyon Park NCAC committee met on Monday to initiate the revision to our plan. Natalie Roy is chairing the group, and has laid out tasks and a timeline for the creation of our updated neighborhood conservation plan.
- Susan Robinson announced the IBIS Concert will be this Sunday evening at the Lyon Park Community Center, featuring string quartets of the music of Finland and Norway.

## Listserv Discussion

Issue: Should one be required to be an LPCA member in order to sign up for the listserv?

- Question about whether the listserv is free. The answer is no, the LPCA pays for it. The question was raised as to why people should be able to subscribe to the listserv when they aren't members of the LPCA.
- Wouldn't management and enforcement be difficult, if listserv participation were tied to LPCA membership.
- We have a vibrant listserv. Imposing a membership requirement would destroy the vibrancy of the listserv and limit participation. Likely result would be to shrink the listserv.
- What is the purpose of the discussion? Why did this come up? It came up because some people believe that the listserv is an extension of the community and adds value.
- One person mentioned that the LPCA listserv should be treated like the newsletter – it is a public service and is distributed to every household. Another indicated that the newsletter raises revenue through advertisement – comments made that both the newsletter and the listserv raise our property values and assist realtors in selling property in our neighborhood.
- We do need to increase the level of membership. That seems to be the larger issue, and we should form a committee and find ways to do that.
- If we don't build the LPCA membership, then we don't build community in our neighborhood.
- Compromise may be that anyone could see emails via the listserv, but only LPCA members would be able to post.

- To drive up membership, we should allow LPCA dues to be paid online via Paypal.
- Many expressed a desire to build both the listserv membership and the LPCA membership.
- Another member indicated that she believes that everyone should be part of the community. We need to not have a high bar to be a member of a community. There are reasons (emergencies, thefts, etc.) that are compelling to have more people participate in the listserv, not fewer.
- Personal contact is key to driving membership. One attendee suggested having block captains to draft neighbors to join – she indicated she would be willing to do this as a one-time campaign.

Issue: Should we change the advertisement policy on the listserv?

- The newsletter seems to be the only venue for advertising (Natalie indicated that we can now advertise on the website) – however, if we increased the advertising rate on the listserv as opposed to the newsletter, because it is faster.
- If we allowed those who contribute 10% to the renovation to advertise on the listserv, that may make sense.
- People with homes for rent should be allowed to announce on the listserv – this is more of a community service.
- When the listserv started, the Executive Committee intended for the listserv to be a forum for discussing community issues and specifically NOT for advertising. We are inundated with advertising everywhere else – there is a desire from some quarters to keep the listserv free of advertisements.
- One attendee mentioned that she had been a member of a 3,000 member, multi-cultural listserv community of ex-pats where they allowed a limit of two advertisements per year (month?) and most people honored the rules.
- Any advertising may be impossible to enforce, especially when 10% is given to the building fund.
- If people donate the proceeds of a sale advertised on the listserv, should the advertising then be allowed?
- Question about whether we should have a separate listserv, completely un-monitored, for people to sell their stuff. The LPCA would take no responsibility for anything posted, and sign-up and subscription maintenance would be up to each person on the list.
- Question about having people sign up for the proposed advertising listserv, and have the proceeds go to the renovation.
- Question asked about why we are spending time on this – is the listserv broken?
- People who advertise free classes, but actually sell things, should not be allowed to advertise on the listserv (loss-leader example).

### **Noise Code**

Larry Mayer presented information about the County's new noise code on the County Board's consent agenda on October 20<sup>th</sup>, advertised on October 17<sup>th</sup>. The County Board deferred action in October, and requested more outreach to achieve public input be done by the County. The Civic Federation's planning and zoning committee reviewed the noise code with staff, and provided written comments on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

The noise code will not be advertised until the February meeting, which means action could potentially be taken by the County Board in March.

Issues per Larry Mayer: There is the concept of “reasonable person” in a Virginia Beach case, where the courts determined they could not define what a “reasonable person” is. The County noise code will likely retain some “reasonable person” language. There are limits of 60 decibels during the day, and 55 decibels at night, for regular ambient noise. For church bells, public or private schools and some other named groups, there will be no limit on noise decibels.

The police often receive complaints about noise created by dogs. Police do not carry noise meters and do not want to carry them, so determining how to have police measure and enforce noise ordinances remains an issue. Code enforcement does carry noise meters, but they only work from 9 to 5. Most noise complaints are after hours, so the police are generally called. Under the proposed code, if dogs are barking once per minute for a total of 10 minutes, the owner may be issued a non-criminal fine.

In the past, dog barking was managed by animal control. They would go out and ensure that the dog is being cared for properly, and provide the owner with information about how to comply. This is not addressed in the new code.

Permits may be issued for events, block parties, outdoor music, and when a permit is issued – the noise levels then do not apply.

Plan for next month will be a discussion of neighborhood parking.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen McSweeney, LPCA Secretary