

Mill Creek Estates Homeowner Association Inc. (Phase I)
Springfield Illinois
November 4, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.
Held at Kerasotes YMCA

Board of Directors Members Present: Bruce Bonczyk, Peter Van Gieson, James O'Brien, Jill Stoops, and Julie Sundquist.

President Bruce Bonczyk called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. There were more than 19 members represented in person (several arrived during the meeting) and 29 by proxy, which met the quorum requirement of 21 members represented, as explained in the meeting notice.

Neighborhood Policing: Mike Burmeister introduced himself as our new Neighborhood Police Officer. He said the area has been relatively quiet with no specific trends. He noted that there had been a spate of car vandalism this summer, which would be solved if people locked their cars when parked outside. Jill Stoops told him of a problem with vehicles running the stop sign at Old Mill Lane and Meadowbrook. Mike will try to patrol there more often but warned that everyone caught in violation will get ticketed whether they live in the neighborhood or not. His email is michael.burmeister@springfield.il.us and cell phone is 217-741-0987.

Ward 10 Report: Ralph Hanauer, who is our alderman, spoke and answered questions.

- Funding has been approved for Archer Elevator Road to be upgraded from Greenbriar to Wabash.
- Iles Avenue will be resurfaced in places.
- Ralph wants to remind all to comply with stop signs. He worked to assure that the signs at Meadowbrook and Iles are left in place, but even with flashing lights there are many instances of vehicles not stopping.
- When asked about the traffic at Meadowbrook and Old Jacksonville Road, he said the long-term plan was for improvements to Old Jack to be extended up to Bradfordton Road. He wasn't sure about the specifics of traffic controls being contemplated.
- The extension of Greenbriar Road to connect to Koke Mill Road will occur when the lots in that area are built out.
- Free branch pickups by the city are now only done **once** in the fall and **once** in the spring. Branches should only be left out on those two weeks. Ralph noted that the city was beginning to issue violation citations for branches left out at other times. Branches can be taken year-round to the Evans Recycling facility at 2100 J. David Jones Parkway with proof of city residency (7am-5pm M-F, 7am-noon Sa).
- Free leaf recycling by the city will extend through December 3. See this website for details: <https://www.springfield.il.us/Departments/PublicWorks/leafPickup.aspx>
- An Air B&B business operating on Old Ivy (Phase II) was shut down by the city as the zoning requirements for that use were not met.
- Ralph and Jim Donelan (Ward 9 Alderman) intend to set up a meeting of homeowner association officers of both wards to share common problems and solutions.
- Ralph Hanauer can be contacted at hanauerward10@gmail.com, through the city website, at city hall 217-789-2151, or at home 217-679-5555.

Elections: J.B. Harper, who was elected to the board of directors last spring, resigned due to unanticipated commitments. Julie Sundquist nominated Diane Boyle. The members present unanimously elected Diane as a director.

Treasurers Report: Eddie Simpson, our treasurer, was recovering from a hospitalization and not at the meeting. Julie Sundquist reported that the association bank balance is \$54,758.28, which is within the \$50 to \$60 thousand range it has been for the last ten years. This year we are operating within budget so far. Some line items are slightly more and others slightly less than estimated. The fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. Generally fiscal matters are discussed in more detail at the Spring meeting when the budget for the next year is adopted.

Common Area Trees: Peter Van Gieson and Jim O'Brien oversaw bidding and completion of the removal of several trees that were a safety hazard or had fallen. Others have been identified or are in process. Members should email the board of any other trees on accessible common areas that may need trimming or be a safety hazard.

Stormwater Retention Area: Bruce Bonzyk gave an update on the drainage improvements that were voted upon last Fall. Two 12-inch drains were installed to carry water from the east inlet to the west outlet. Rip-rap was moved to improve flow and address eroded areas. The next step is to dig an east to west swale between the two drains to carry excess water during high flows. The soil removed will be used to fill low areas on the southeast corner. Then bare soil will be reseeded. Timing of further work will be determined by the weather. So far, the project is on budget (\$20,000 was originally allocated). Larry Scheufele who has lived adjacent to the area for over 25 years said it is looking better now than it has in a while.

Entrance Landscaping: Bids are in progress to replace dead or struggling plants, trim trees, rebury the irrigation hose, remove rotted landscaping timber, and fill in an eroded area. A motion was passed that allocated up to \$5,000 for that work.

Exploring a Covenants Update: An ad hoc committee will be formed to review the covenants and by-laws to see where recent law changes and court decisions create enforcement problems. Steve Preckwinkle volunteered to participate.

Neighborhood Watch: Last year we began using a free social media service called **Nextdoor**, which can be found at www.nextdoor.com. Many residents have signed up there. It offers the ability to post messages or urgent alerts. You can sign up for it yourself; you do not need any intervention by the MCEHA board or directors. Jill Stoops and Julie Sundquist are available to explain this service. If you find the notifications too numerous, you can adjust what information that you receive in the settings menu. Jill and Julie can assist if you need help with that.

The City of Springfield has a citywide messaging alert service that is also free. Go to the city website, www.springfield.il.us. On the top of this website go to "I Want To.." and choose "Sign Up For..." and "City Text Alerts". Residents can sign up for various emergency alerts from blizzards to high winds to flash floods. A street address and either a text-capable cell phone or an e-mail address must be provided.

Web-Site: Our web page is at: <http://www.millcreekestateshoa.com>
It has various documents and maps, including the covenants and by-laws, historical meeting notices and meeting minutes, and other items of interest.

A motion to adjourn the meeting passed at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
James O'Brien, Secretary