

Bellevue Civic Association Winter Meeting

March 5, 2019 – Ginter Park Library

The meeting began at approximately 6:35 pm.

- II. President, David Lydiard, called the meeting to order. Approximately 35 people were in attendance. Four new neighbors joined the association at the meeting.
- III. The minutes of our November 20, 2018 meeting were approved.
- III. Matt Howells, Treasurer, reported our banking account at \$20,584.01. This amount includes all yearly newsletter advertising fees that are paid at the beginning of the year.

IV. Speakers:

- a. **Lt. Robert Flemings, Richmond Police Department** – Neighborhood Crime Report. Lt. Roberts reported that the 4th Princt won the RPD Princt of the Year Award for 2018 and that Captain Daniel Minton became the commander on 2/1/19. The 4th Princt is the second largest and most populated sector in the city. Lt. Fleming encouraged the membership to use Ring technology as a crime deterrent. With the Neighbor App and a Ring camera you are able capture photos and video of people at your front door. Surveillance cameras at one residence led to the positive ID and arrest of the individual who had been burglarizing sheds in the neighborhood for several months. Crime is up this year compared to 2018 and the number one crime is motor vehicle theft. From January – March 2018 there were 4 motor vehicle thefts compared to 17 in Q1 2019. Of the 17 thefts this year, 7 vehicles were running and had the keys in the ignition! Cold mornings and warming up the car make an easy target. BCA members asked for an update on damage caused in Bryan Park by a vandal's use of a maintenance tractor to knock down trees and damage buildings. No one has been apprehended yet. Another question from the membership was a concern that dialing 911 with a cell phone can route the call to the Henrico Police Department because our neighborhood is so close to the Henrico County line. This can occur with cell phones. However, after you provide your address, the call will be redirected to the RPD. Lastly, radar traps have been started to deter speeding in the early morning and evenings.
- b. **Chris Hilbert, City Councilman, 3rd District** – Mr. Hilbert provided a handout with information on the gas line and paving projects in Bellevue. Gas line installations should be completed by the end of April and street paving should be completed by the end of May. Roads will be milled to reduce crowning prior to adding a layer of pavement. Bike lanes will be installed on Brook Road by the end of summer. Members are concerned about the condition of our alleys and leaves in the street drains. Members were encouraged to put in requests for alley grading and gravel through 311. One member asked if a turning lane on Laburnum or set back to prevent parking at the corner of Newport and Laburnum could be added. Turning into Newport from Laburnum is a hazard with the speed and steady flow of traffic that runs on Laburnum.

V. Committee Updates

- a. **Membership Update:** Zak Saul reported for Joyce Foster. Membership is currently at 175 members. Cards for members that joined or renewed in January & February will be delivered by Janet and Jerry DeVoss in the next 2 weeks.
- b. **Garden Walk:** Lin Rasmussen reminded members that our 30th Annual Garden Walk is scheduled for May 5th from 2 – 6 PM (rain or shine). This year features 12 Gardens, 12 Artists, and 2 Art Studios.

- c. **Newsletter Editor:** Joe Sanderson / Justin Vaughn. No report.
- d. **Sandwich Signs:** Paul Quele. No report.
- e. **Security Patrol:** Jerry DeVoss reported that the Bellevue Security Patrol is celebrating 24 years of service to the neighborhood and holds the city record for being the longest running security patrol in Richmond. Volunteers are always needed. The commitment of time is 1 hour every 4 weeks.
- f. **Mulching Day:** Zak Saul reported that he will head up the 2019 mulching day event. Trucks and volunteers to week and spread mulch are needed. Details will be distributed through social media. Two weekend dates in April are being considered: April 13/14 or April 27/28.
- g. **Volunteers Needed:** David Lydiard asked for volunteers to fill open positions:
 - Volunteer Coordinator
 - Hospitality Coordinator
 - Beautify Bellevue
 - Newsletter Distribution Coordinator
- h. **Real Estate Update:** David Lydiard reported that 58 houses sold in 2018. 4 houses are currently active.

VI. **New Business**

- a. The annual Plant Swap will be held on April 27th from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM at Once Upon a Vine (rain or shine).
- b. Due to our past support of the Adopt a Tree program, the city arborist gave Bellevue another 100 trees to plant free of charge.

VII. **Community Announcements**

- a. Holton Elementary has started a soccer league that is run through Richmond City. Details can be found on the Holton PTA Facebook page.
- b. Ginter Park Library has expanded hours to include Sundays from 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM and offers free Notary services. The library is sponsoring a golf tournament fund raiser on April 29th. 110 players are needed. Currently 74 golfers have signed up. Please call the library to register and for additional details. Lastly, instructions for Hoopla were distributed. Hoopla is a private channel for free movies that can be accessed with your Library Card.

VIII. **Membership Drawing**

- a. We closed out the meeting with a random drawing of member names for a gift certificate to a Bellevue restaurant. Catherine Gilmer won the drawing.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May21, 2019. We will be back at Holton Elementary School. Many thanks to Ginter Park Library for providing the BCA space for tonight's meeting.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Margaret Hutchison, Secretary*