

**First Draft
Minutes
The Stoneleigh Community Association
Annual Meeting
December 6, 2005**

Present:

Joe Cirelli	Bissett Schwanke	Kate Reinhart
Jean-Marie Trivedi	Kathleen Williams	Michael Gill
Stephen Ban	Brough Schamp	Joe Oddo
Fred Stringfellow	Nancy Talbott	Lee Starkey
Will Hicklen	Christian Merlo	

Absent:

Shelley Roseborough

A. The annual meeting was held on December 6, 2005 in the Stoneleigh Elementary School cafeteria. President Joe Cirelli called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. As a quorum of the community was present, the following items were able to be reviewed and voted upon:

- **Moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the Annual meeting, December 2004.** (Attachment A)
- **Moved, seconded and carried to approve the Board of Governors slate for 2006.** (Attachment B)
- **Moved, seconded and carried to approve amendments of the by-laws.** (Attachment C)
- Joe reviewed the 2005 YTD income: Bradford CD: \$20,301.72; Bradford Checking: \$18,007.26; Total balance: \$38,308.98 (Attachments D and F).
- **2006 Budget** (Attachment E) - **Moved, seconded and carried to approve the 2006 Budget.**

B. President's Remarks

- Joe touched on the incoming four goals of the administration: the current board worked diligently to **increase membership** percentages for the community association. Unfortunately, the percentage of members seemed to stay stable. Joe did suggest that perhaps rewarding neighbors who are members at the increasingly popular community events (i.e. a discount when registering for the Stoneleigh Stampede) could help encourage membership.
- The **Stoneleigh directory**, a valued neighborhood tool, has been outdated for a few years. Arrangements have now been made for the directory to be updated annually at little cost to the community. The same printer that we use for *The Stoneleighite* will print the directory.
- **Historic signs** for Stoneleigh are on the way. The signs themselves have been researched, positions chosen, and bids have been received. Right before the project got the green light we found out about a community action grant that we could apply for that could potentially cover a large portion of the cost of the project. Joe ended up applying for the grant on Stoneleigh's behalf in 7/05. We are awaiting the results and expect them soon.
- The board continued the leadership of **fiscal responsibility** when planning community events and making community decisions. To note: social events in the neighborhood now break even (but we really, really need volunteers to keep making them happen!).
- A good amount of time and effort of this board went into reviewing the Country Club of

Maryland's proposed development; the board continues to strive to best represent Stoneleigh and its concerns and to keep an open dialogue going with the club as the project progresses.

- Joe spoke briefly of the neighbor on Stoneleigh Road who has installed a complete front yard fence; an anomaly until now in the community. The community outrage over this project has been quite loud and clear: Joe and Michael Gill have received more communications over this matter than any of the other from 2005, combined. The board will work towards a resolution on this matter.
- Finally, Joe talked about the volunteer crisis in the neighborhood; it seems as if the community keeps taking on more events but the number of volunteers stays static. Please consider volunteering; we need more diverse help to keep up all that the neighborhood has taken on for the future.

C. Ist Vice President - Bissett Schwanke

- Membership to the community association is at about 85%. Bissett also spoke about how the board would like to encourage neighbors to join the association; especially long-term residents who have chosen not to be members of the association for some reason.
- Bissett and Brian Schwanke hosted a new neighbor party this past fall that was well attended. She hopes the event allowed new community members to understand all the opportunities there are to become involved there are.
- The updated Stoneleigh directory will be ready in January 2006 at no charge. Bissett thanked block captains for all of their hard work in getting the data needed for the directory from their neighbors.

D. Restrictions and Improvements - Michael Gill

- Michael reviewed the situation that many at-large community members wanted to discuss: the new fence on Stoneleigh Road. The residents of 712 Stoneleigh Road erected a front yard fence that meets with disapproval from many community members. It is the first entire front yard fence in the neighborhood and folks are concerned of the precedent it will set.
- Michael confirmed with Baltimore County that the fence is legal; its permit was filed by Pyle Fence Company and it is underneath the 42 inch minimum required in front yard fences.
- The residents of 712 Stoneleigh did not consult with their neighbors before erecting the fence nor did they consult with Michael of the Restrictions and Improvements committee.
- Reportedly, the residents erected the fence to protect their young children from the busy traffic on Stoneleigh Road.
- Although legal in Baltimore County's eyes, the original covenant of Stoneleigh states that a fence "shall not be built to the fore plane of the house."
- Many community members who attended the meeting spoke about the fence and their disapproval of it. Neighbors offered varying suggestions of how to pursue communicating with the fence owners about the community's widespread distaste for their project.
- Several people wanted to know if the board could move forward on resurrecting the community covenant; the board will look into this and other options of how to specifically deal with the current fence owners.

E. Traffic/Roads and Outside affairs - Kathleen Williams

- York Road renovations are now finished-- and it looks great!
- GTCCA squelched a housing development for Towson University students (300 plus) that was in the works.
- The Rodgers Forge apartment complex is to be developed into condos in the

\$200,000.00 range.

- Dulaney Valley Apartments are to be demolished and condos will also be built there.
- In review of the CC of Maryland project: the Idlewyld community is completely against any sort of development and have been very vocal about their disapproval. Kathleen is committed to keeping an open line of communication with the developers as the project unfolds, to make sure they keep Stoneleigh's opinions and concerns in mind.

F. COP - Joe Oddo

- Joe thanked everyone for a good year and encouraged community members to consider volunteering for COP.

G. Social Committee - Kate Reinhart

- Kate asked the community at large to consider volunteering for an event, as the committee has a full plate. She noted that next year the Labor Day fair will not be handled by the committee, but by the board directly.
- Richard Blesser reminded all that Stoneleigh will be 85 in a few years; perhaps we should consider long-range plans for a unique event.

H. Pool Committee - Will Hicklen

- Will reported that the pool recently paid an extra \$60,000.00 down on the debt of the renovations.
- He reports the pool is in great shape and has \$52,071.74 cash on hand.
- The Stoneleigh Sharks are now financially independent this year; this was also a great year for the kids, competitively.
- The synchronized swim program had a net loss of \$1700; this is a big improvement over previous years. Will expects that program to break even soon.
- Will offered a year-end statement and operating budget for the pool for 2006 to community members via e-mail if they are interested.

I. Gardening Club - Nancy Talbott

- The club meets September through May; Nancy encouraged people to join.
- This month a master gardener will be presenting on "Gardening for the health of it".

J. Greening and Recycling - Brough Schamp

- Stoneleigh has been adding to the canopy trees - 200 plus in the last several years!
- Dumpster Day was a modest success (\$282) due largely to the rain.

K. The Stoneleighite - Lee Starkey

Lee thanked everyone for a great year and implored neighbors to consider volunteering.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jean-Marie Trivedi, 1/17/06