

WEXFORD WATCH

WEXFORD VILLAGE HOMES ASSOCIATION, INC.

Annual Meeting Recap

The Wexford Village Homes Association annual meeting was Tuesday, December 1, at High Point Church.

Representatives from the Madison Metropolitan School District spoke to those in attendance. Sarah Galanter-Guziewski, principal of Glenn Stephens Elementary, and Issac Kirkwood, interim principal of Jefferson Middle School, presented information about changing demographics in our schools, the experiences and challenges of a 'typical' day, strategies for closing achievement gaps, school budgets, and volunteer opportunities.

Matt Nelson, board president, discussed events affecting Wexford Village in 2015, including lighting repair and associated landscape remediation along the path running west from Gammon Road between Sawmill Road and Fiskdale Circle. What was anticipated as a straightforward project, involving new wiring for a long light section, became much larger and more expensive when many rocks and boulders were encountered.

The status of contracts with current vendors, general reminders concerning the architectural review process, typical covenant issues, and Wexford social events were also addressed.

Paul Stang, board treasurer, presented the association's finances. The City of Madison has instituted an urban forestry charge that appears on water bills. This charge is the primary funding source for dealing with the emerald ash borer. The fee is \$2.76 per month for residential parcels and \$7.26 per month for parcels that are only assessed for storm water.

Wexford has 68 storm water parcels, including circle islands and green space along the walking paths

This charge effectively doubles Wexford's storm water assessment to \$12,000 per year. When contacted, Alderman Mark Clear indicated that this was not intended when the charge was approved by the council and he is sympathetic to our situation. How this will be resolved remains to be seen.

Troy Dreyer, board secretary, presented information regarding the association's newsletter, The Wexford Watch, and the neighborhood directory. The Wexford Watch is distributed electronically three to four times a year and a hard copy of the winter issue is mailed with dues notices. To receive The Wexford Watch via email, send your email address to wexford-

2016 Directory

The last Wexford Village Directory was published in 2011. Ideally, a directory is published every two years. However, due to board member turnover the database was not maintained and the information was out-of-date. The board is working on cleaning up information and getting a directory published in early 2016.

The board thanks homeowners for their understanding. Thanks to Dick Ihlenfeld and Troy Dreyer, who each spent around 40 hours learning the software and cleaning up information.

watch@yahoo.com. Troy took comments and suggestions from those at the meeting regarding directory content.

Ken Schmidt, board member, presented information about the association's activities in Wexford Park and Wexford Prairie (a.k.a. lot 400). Wexford 'adopted' and treated six ash trees in Wexford Park to guard against the emerald ash borer. These were the only ash trees declared treatable by the city, others were removed. A report prepared by Ken Norlund on the status of prairie restoration in lot 400 was presented.

The Wexford Watch is electronic. To receive the electronic editions published throughout the year, in addition to other announcements, send your e-mail address to wexfordwatch@yahoo.com. Depending on neighborhood activity and special announcements, about 5-10 messages are sent annually.

Annual Dues

Return your dues payment and directory information in the addressed envelope by February 1, 2016, to avoid the \$10 late fee. The association will place liens on properties that fail to pay their dues in a timely manner.

Homeowner dues are the only source of money to pay for maintaining our green spaces, pathways, lighting, publishing the directory, and conducting neighborhood events.

Please Note: Dues have not increased from last year and have not been increased in many years. The age and associated maintenance of lights and paths along with new urban forestry fee from the city are expected to put pressure on future budgets.

Fall Cook-out

The Wexford Village Fall Cook-out was held Saturday, September 12, at Wexford Park. It was a fun event of food and games and was well attended. The board provided grillables, buns, and beverages, while residents provided desserts and side dishes.

Thanks go to Monica Bear and Lisa Hofmeister for organizing. We hope to see everyone again next year.

If you'd like to be involved in a Wexford social event, contact any board member.

Neighborhood Safety

While Wexford Village is a safe area, there have been some thefts in the area. Typically, kids taking cash and other small items from open cars or garages.

Residents should lock their house and car doors and close their garage doors to prevent crimes of opportunity.

The Madison Police Department has asked that we contact Officer Ryan Hendersen:

rhenderson@cityofmadison.com

608-255-2345

Lighting and Path Plans

The Wexford budget is in good shape heading into 2016. On the list for 2016 is the replacement of poles, lamp heads, and wiring along the path that separates the Saukdale Condominiums from the rest of Wexford Village. The first four lamps west of N. Westfield short-out frequently, typically after moderate to heavy rain.

The current proposal from PKK Lighting is to replace these four lights with seven LED lights. One LED lamp head has been installed on pole #86A for evaluation and the board invites anyone interested to take a look and provide feedback.

The goal is to provide trouble-free lighting along the path for safety and

security, without over-lighting the area. The change to LED will use significantly less energy, save money, and possibly enable combining existing circuits.

Several path sections will need repair, replacement, or sealing in 2016. Maintenance on several path sections that was planned for 2015 had to be put off until 2016 due to unexpected expenses associated with lighting repair in 2015. The association's goal is to address the paths where needed in order to maintain what we have for as long as possible. Paths and similar narrow sections of asphalt are not attractive to many paving companies. Most paving contractors prefer parking lots and other large jobs.

Board Meetings and Membership

The Wexford Village Homes Association board is a volunteer group made up of Wexford Village residents. If you have any interest in becoming involved with the board, please contact a board member or attend a meeting. There is an open Vice President spot on the board.

You don't need to be a board member to get involved, there are plenty of

events to help with—just let us know on your data sheet.

The board meets at 7 pm the first Tuesday of every month (except December and July) in the High Point Church.

We donate \$150 to the church for letting us use their space.