

Stoneleigh Community Association
Annual Meeting
January 7, 2008¹

Board Members Present:

Christian Merlo	Dean Johnson	Lisa Mathias	Jon Carpenter
Kathleen Williams	Guido Galvez	Brough Schamp	Joe Oddo
Seth Hammer	Laura Collamer	Anita Anson	Lee Starkey
Ron Schneider	Warren Anderson		

The meeting was held in the cafeteria of Stoneleigh Elementary School.

Call to Order and Introductions – Christian Merlo:

- The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM. A quorum of members was present.
- The minutes from the December 2006 Annual Meeting were approved without changes. They are available on the community association website.
- Christian presented the slate of officers for the 2008 board of governors. Following the necessary motions the new slate of officers was approved.
- Christian acknowledged the work of the 2007 board members. Christian offered a special thanks to Lee Starkey for all of his work on The Stoneleighite as well as Richard Blesser for his work on the pool committee. He acknowledged the work of two community members not serving on the board: Charlie Reuland for his work on the Kids Tryathlon and Chris Lehman for his work on the Stoneleigh Stampede. This year Sanjay Trivedi will take over the planning for the Stoneleigh Stampede.

State of the Community Report – Seth Hammer, Treasurer:

- Seth provided the membership with an Income, Expense and Budget worksheet for 2007 and a Proposed Budget for 2008.
- The community association is financially healthy. The association strives to breakeven for social events so that there is no cost to the community in terms of dues. The social events are an important part of the community and frequently provide a source of income.
- The community received a large grant to cover the cost of purchasing and planting trees throughout the community. We have been able to increase the number of trees planted without significant cost to the community. Seth thanked Brough Schamp for his work in this area.
- Income comes from dues and interest earned as well as some donations from community members.
- The community association does have a surplus which is necessary to maintain for any necessary but unexpected costs. Part of this surplus will be used to make a payment on the pool loan.

¹ The annual meeting was rescheduled from December 5, 2007 to January 7, 2008 due to inclement weather.

- Seth presented the anticipated budget for 2008. This budget includes the traditional expenses that are generally incurred each year. A motion to approve the 2008 budget was made and seconded. There was no opposition to the budget and it was approved.

Citizens on Patrol – Joe Oddo:

- Joe said that the e-mail network is set up and schedules and notices of COP events have been going out. Training is planned for the end of the month. An e-mail reminder will go out. Joe impressed upon everyone how important the COP is to the neighborhood and how we need more volunteers. One hour per month is very helpful. Joe thanked all the current volunteers for their efforts.
- Christian reminded that group how much work goes into the COP and how it isn't a one person job. There has been a big drop off in participation. The COP has tried to recruit new volunteers with only with limited success and response from the community. This is particularly important in light of the recent events in the neighborhood.
- A community member expressed concern that some neighbors might now be away of recent events. Christian explained that he was referring to the assault. The community responded strongly at first with a lot of renewed interest in the COP but there was not been a lot of follow through after the initial interest. Patrols have doubled from before the incident but they are still not adequate.

1st Vice President Report – Dean Johnson:

- Dean presented the group with an update on the Stoneleigh community website. He has worked on it for the past few months and would like suggestions and insights as to how to improve it. There are likely to be some changes to the website and the board is looking to hire someone to manage to the website. He would like to look into putting The Stoneleighite on the website as well as an updated calendar of neighborhood events.
- The Google group e-mail system is working well to get notices out to the neighborhood.
- The New Neighbor Welcome Party was a big success. This is a great way to get new neighbors involved in the community. We really need to recruit for future board members. The Google e-mail group is working out well
- A resident suggested that block captains have a list of people on their block that do not have e-mails so that those people can be notified in another way about events, activities, etc.

Garden Club – Wilma Starkey (for Nancy Talbott):

- Wilma announced the winners of the Garden Club Holiday Decoration contest. The judges were members of another Garden Club, not Stoneleigh's. First place for overall design went to the residents at 811 Tred Avon. First place in the door contest went to the residents of 702 Stoneleigh Road.

Outside Affairs - Kathleen Williams:

- A survey of the neighborhood is being done by Baltimore County regarding the storm drains. When Stoneleigh was built no survey was filed with the county. Many of the storm drains appear to run on private property and the county does not have any right to go on private property to replace storm drains. We are just hoping that they will be able to improve the flooding. It is very unrealistic to think that the county is going to replace all the storm drains. Once the report from the county is complete Kathleen hopes to post it on the website.
- The requirements for traffic calming have been relaxed and Stoneleigh will re apply for traffic calming. In the past we have been turned down – not enough volume and speed. Kathleen plans to file for Kenleigh, Hatherleigh and Regester.
- Tax credit applications are being approved – approximately one per month. Kathleen has the information if you are planning to do work in your home and want to apply for the tax credit.
- Kathleen has received some calls about the new property tax assessments. She encouraged everyone to apply for the Homestead Tax Credit which will reduce the tax bill if it is a primary residence. This year everyone who received a new assessment needs to reapply.
- A resident asked if anyone knew anything about the new Fios service from Verizon and when it would be available in the neighborhood. It is available in parts of the neighborhood (upper part of Kingston Road, for example) but not all yet. You need to contact Verizon for information about availability.
- Another resident remarked that during walks around the neighborhood street lights had been out in parts of Stoneleigh. Although they were not on his block, he contacted BGE after noticing that they were out for several weeks. Kathleen encouraged residents to call BGE with this problem whether you live on that block or not.

Greening and Recycling – Brough Schamp:

- This year approximately 40 trees were planted. We have received money from the Herring Run Watershed Association that will allow us to plant many more trees in the spring.
- Brough has pruned many of the trees that were planted. It is important that they be shaped to be shade trees and not bushes.
- Brough is concerned about the loss of several large, healthy trees in the neighborhood this year. Several trees were taken down on Kingston Road. He would like to see how to slow this down and be sure that residents are aware of alternative solutions to problems created by large trees.
- Many bikes and sewing machines were collected at Stoneleigh's Dumpster Day. They were donated to a charity, Bikes for the World. The community association will pay the cost of shipping the bicycles to their destination from the greening and recycling budget.
- A resident asked why trees were removed from the school grounds near the new walkway. Apparently BGE installed a new gas line for the school and the trees were on their right of way. Also, one third of the trees were dying. Nine new trees were planted by the neighborhood along the new walkway at the school.

- A resident of Rich Hill road expressed concerns about people parking on the grass between the sidewalk and the street. The resident wanted to know if trees could be planted here. Brough does not recommend this because the space is not big enough for the tree to grow properly.
- Please let Brough know if you are interested in having a tree planted in your front or back yard in the spring. The cost is \$25.00.

Pool Committee – Ron Schneider and Richard Bleser:

- Ron has served as the president of the pool committee for two years. The pool looked great this past summer and the pool committee was a very hard working group of people. Ron thanked Richard Bleser who will step down from the committee this year for his dedication to the pool committee. A great new committee is in place for 2008.
- Some updates have been made to the pool. The deck on the Hatherleigh Road side of the pool has been expanded. This gives the swim team more of a platform and should help to avoid the muddy mess that was created in years past. The committee is looking into having an irrigation system installed in the spring. All new furniture has been purchased for the pool. We will try to sell the old pool furniture and some other clubs have expressed an interest in purchasing it.
- The pool note will be extended one more year. We are still coming in more than four years ahead of the due date.
- A resident raised two issues: replacing the chain link fence and the very, very young lifeguards. Richard and Ron responded that the fence issue has been considered but the condition of the bathhouse needs to be resolved first. Not sure when this will happen – could be five to seven years from now. A new fence will be very expensive. The pool committee raised the issue of the age of the lifeguards with DRD. Guards must be 15 years old – this is an industry wide standard. Preference in hiring of lifeguards goes to neighborhood residents first. A resident stated that his son applied but did not get a call back. Another resident stated that he was aware that a neighbor of his was not able to get a job at the pool either. Ron said that he needs to know about these things when they happen so that he can do something about them. The guards are usually hired in January so the applications should have been in about a month ago. Several residents who were present said that they were not informed about this and there was no mention of this in *The Stoneleighite* or through the Google groups e-mail system.
- There will be an entire new management staff from DRD at the pool this summer. The DRD contract comes up for renewal this year and DRD would like to keep the contract. So now is a good time to address any concerns.
- A resident wanted to know how to obtain non-resident pool applications. All requests for application can be directed to Kevin Bowie, the new pool committee chairman.

***The Stoneleighite* – Lee Starkey:**

- Prior to Lee addressing the group, the board presented Lee with a framed copy of *The Stoneleighite* in recognition of the publication of his 20th issue. The board thanked Lee for all of his hard work and dedication to the newsletter.

- Lee would like to thank his wife Wilma for proofreading; Brough for the great photography; Shelly Roseborough for her help as associate editor and; Christian Merlo and the members of the board for their support.
- The deadline for the winter issue is Monday, January 21st. The deadline for the spring issue is April 21st. He encouraged anyone who was interested to submit information for publication.

Open Floor:

- Phoebe Letocha volunteered to plan the community yard sale. The yard sale will not be done in conjunction with Anneslie's community yard sale as has been done in previous years. She would like to order reusable signs to help advertise the yard sale. If anyone would like to help organize Phoebe can be reached at (410)377-8367.
- A resident asked that the recycling and garbage schedule be placed on the website. There has been a problem with some residents putting out items at the wrong time. Dean Johnson said that he plans to have this information put on the Stoneleigh website.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Mathias, secretary, Stoneleigh Community Association.