

Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Pinney Library

I. Welcome (6:30-6:45)

a. Call to order (Dan) - 6:35pm

1. Present: Dan (virtually), Pete, Kristy, Alice, Dylan, CJ, Jacob, Kim R., Bob.

b. **Approval of the agenda (All)** - Approved as written. (Items F & G under New Business were added during the meeting.)

c. Word on the Street (All)

1. Goats have left Acewood and moved to Edna Taylor

2. Jacob has received complaints about school bus service this week. Elvehjem not as affected by issues as other schools such as Henderson.

II. Reports (6:45 – 7:00)

a. **Secretary's report (Kristy)** - we're compiling a "Helpers List" - similar to the existing Babysitters List, but for people offering help with yard work, snow removal, etc. We'll promote it in the Fall Echo, with follow-up in the Extra and on Facebook.

b. Treasurer's report (Jacob)

i. We raised \$1,024 at our July 4th event (only \$40 less than 2022).

ii. We should consider implementing a minimum bid system next year.

iii. Closing out summer expenditures; CJ & Dylan to submit their Resource Fair expenses for reimbursement.

c. Echo report (Dan)

i. **Fall Echo** was sent to Thyse and is in-process. Next year we may move the Fall issue earlier (mid-August?) to allow more time between the Fall & Winter issues.

ii. **Advertising (Jacob)** - Jacob to send an invoice to MGNS.

1. We'll continue to discuss how to advertise the ad space in The Extra.

d. Extra report (Pete)

i. The Elvehjem DonorsChoose link was our 2nd most-clicked link ever (2nd only to the MGE outage map in June 2022). If we have other causes to promote, we should put in future Extras as those types of links get a lot of traffic.

III. New Business (7:00 – 7:15)

a. Neighborhood Grant planning (Pete)

i. Pete has sent initial plan to the city. Dylan will move forward with a sign vendor by 9/15. If Bob wants to bid on the job, he'll get bid to Dylan by next week.

ii. We're expecting a 2-week turnaround time on getting the new signage (roughly by 10/1), giving us the rest of October for sign-adjacent landscaping.

b. Neighborhood Survey Check-In and Plan (Pete & Dan)

i. We received ~75 more responses after the last dedicated email blast. Dan will do one more dedicated email blast. @

- ii. We'll cut off survey responses at end of September, digest the data in October, discuss at our November meeting and then publish results in the Winter Echo.

c. Garden Sign Committee (Dylan & Kristy)

- i. Dylan will start a Facebook group for the Garden Guild. Dan will reach out to the LVM Community Garden group to see if they have any interest.
- ii. Put laminated signs up at the Acewood & Buckeye signs - Kristy will come up with a design; Pete will figure out how to laminate.

d. Board Chat (initial impressions) - initial trial of WhatsApp for board messaging has been fine. We'll continue to use and see if it provides value.

e. Welcome Committee latest (Jacob) - we'll sign welcome cards at our next meeting. CJ and Kim will distribute (along with magnets) to welcome new neighbors.

f. Elvehjem Elementary Lunch Balances

- i. The school ended the 22-23 school year with a much higher than usual school lunch balance. But unlike in years past, the school district has not released all of the data, and the PTO doesn't have access to the info either. As such, the ENA has not been able to contribute any amount to offset some of the debt.
- ii. These lunch debts remain attached to the students' accounts as they continue on through school. It's unlikely, but the school district could potentially withhold diplomas if the debts aren't settled.
- iii. Jacob and Pete will think if there's anyone they could reach out to learn more.

g. Astronomy Club

- i. Bob had the idea of a neighborhood star-gazing club. He will put out feelers on Facebook to see if any neighbors want to head up the club.

IV. Upcoming Events (7:15-8:00)

a. Halloween Bonfires, October 31 (Pete) - sign-up form will go live in October.

b. Turkey Trot, November 23 (Pete, Alice, & Dylan)

- i. Supplies already purchased. (Kristy & Alice will check the shed to see if we still have medals for the kids.) Pete may change the 5K route, time permitting. Dylan will bring a speaker to play jams at the start/finish line.
- ii. Prizes - last year we gave Metro Market gift cards to the winners in 4 categories: Adult Men, Senior Men, Adult Women, Senior Women. Bob is available to put together a prototype of an award/trophy we could use.

- c. **Holiday in the Park, December 9 (Dan & Kristy)**
 - i. Biggest line item is the horse & carriage (\$850) which only serves ~80-100 people, and can be difficult to manage. We want to explore other options. We'll brainstorm alternative ideas over email until Sept 20th.
 - ii. Dan will reach out to horse & carriage team to see if they can give us a price break. He will also reach out to confirm Santa's participation this year, and check with Marc DeCarli about taking photos with Santa.

- d. **Holiday Lights Showcase? (Pete & Bob)** - can't start map until after Halloween; we'll discuss further at the November meeting.

V. Event Recap (8:00-8:30)

- a. **Community Resource Fair, August 19th (CJ)**
 - i. Exit interviews with the vendors/service providers all seemed positive.
 - ii. We'd like to improve accessibility next year. We'll check with the city to see if they have accessibility resources they could donate next year.
 - iii. We'll plan to expand the event at Acewood until it grows too big for the space. (Maybe up to 45-50 exhibitors?)
 - iv. We'll look into putting up detour signs next year (pending approval by city).

VI. Adjournment

Announcements

- The Elvehjem Extra will publish Friday, September 29th
- The next ENA Board Meeting is Wednesday, October 4th from 6:30-8:30 pm at **Pinney Library**
- The next Echo Newsletter deadline is November 1st for the *Winter* Echo