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UPLANDER

THE UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION, EST. 1902



JANUARY 2017

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

*And there's a hand, my trusty fiere!
And gie's a hand o' thine!
And we'll tak a right guid willy waught,
For auld lang syne.*

*For auld lang syne, my jo,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne*

—Robert Burns, 1788

Happy New Year, neighbors! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. It's traditional at New Year's to sing Auld Lang Syne, of course, but according to scotland.org, Scotland has an additional tradition during the last verse (quoted above): "Everyone stands in a circle holding hands, then at the beginning of the final verse, they cross their arms across their bodies so that their left hand is holding the hand of the person on their right, and their right hand holds that of the person on their left. When the song ends, everyone rushes to the middle, still holding hands, and probably giggling." Sounds entertaining.

Speaking of entertainment, we will have our first Uplands Residential Association meeting of 2017 on Thursday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bradley Epworth United Methodist Church, corner of Elmwood and Columbia Terrace. I know you've all made a New Year's resolution to start attending these meetings, so here's your chance to start the year off right! Come a little early and get to know your neighbors—we have a social time starting at 6:30 p.m.

We have a special guest at this month's meeting: Tim Cassidy, President of the Peoria Park District Board of Trustees. We've invited Mr. Cassidy to share with us the Park District's plans and priorities for 2017, and answer any questions you might have. Since we are fortunate to have the beautiful Laura Bradley Park bounding our neighborhood on two sides, and since the Park District has the third-highest property tax levy in our area (behind the school district and city, but ahead of the county), we thought it would be good to get to know our Park District representatives a little better. Mr. Cassidy is a life-long resident of Peoria and a partner in the firm of Cassidy & Mueller P.C. He was first elected to the Park District Board of Trustees in 1987, and has been President since 1992. We're very pleased to welcome him as our guest this month.



You may recall that last year we had Bradley University President Gary Roberts as our guest at our August meeting, and he shared with us plans that Bradley has to build a "Convergence Center," a business and engineering complex that will replace Jobst and Baker halls, which are right across Main Street from our neighborhood. Bradley is going to share additional details on Thursday, January 19, at 7 p.m. in the Michel Student Center on Bradley's campus. Uplands residents are invited to attend.

I leave you with this New Year's toast from Benjamin Franklin: "Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man."

Cheers!

C. J. Summers

UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION MEETING AGENDA

JANUARY 12, 2017—7:00 P.M.

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Welcome Tim Cassidy, President of Peoria Park District Board of Trustees
- III. Regular Business
 - A. Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting
 - B. Treasurer's Report
- IV. Reports
 - A. West Bluff Council
 - B. Western Avenue Greenway
 - C. Other Committees
- V. Unfinished Business
- VI. New Business
- VII. Adjournment

Uplands Residential Association Meeting Minutes Thursday, November 10, 2016

Convened 7:01pm

Report from the West Bluff Council

- New homeowners are being asked by the Postal Service to move their mailboxes to more "accessible" locations, even though the existing mailbox is fairly accessible. They are in the process of contacting local and state postal officials and legislators to complain.

- The new draft ordinance for regulating placement of cell phone towers was discussed.

Unfinished Business

It was asked at the last meeting if the new flashing speed feedback signs log the speeds so we can see how much people are speeding. They do not. Speeding in the neighborhood was discussed. A resident on Parkside says that speeding through Parkside is bad, especially the segment from Columbia Terrace to Main. It seems like the drivers have adapted to it. We discussed the possibility of getting a handicap curb-cut to the park in one of those crosswalks? With a speedbump? We plan to resume talks with the city in the spring about traffic issues in the Uplands.

The Uplands Directory is due for an update. Pete to contact potential candidates to drive that process.

Treasurer's Report

Deposits - Membership dues x9, beautification fund: \$105
Total Available Balance: \$3,045.97
Beautification Fund Balance: \$1334.95
Total Paid Members: 80

New Business

The Park District will no longer print the Uplander for us. CJ will ask Rapid Print for estimates.

There is no update on water mains or alley work, but John Fuller volunteered to help drive full alley reconstruction when that issue resurfaces.

Adjourned at 8:12pm

Green Thumbs Needed

It may be cold outside but it's not too early to think about Spring. With seed catalogs in hand, it is time to plan. As many have noted, the boulevards look very good. Over the last five years we have tried to revitalize all the gardens. Most are done. Based on feedback, I think the alterations have been well received. We have 27 actively maintained gardens along our boulevards and only 10 active assigned gardeners, with a couple more who help here and there. Twelve people is not enough. In 2001 we had 25 gardeners with another 7 more who helped here and there. No person should have to take care of more than one or two garden spaces. Our numbers have declined. Over time people have moved away, passed away, or through the circumstances of their lives, cannot take care of them anymore. We need more volunteers!!!

For 40 years, the Uplands gardeners have been taking care of the boulevard gardens. The purpose has been to enhance and beautify the neighborhood, so that we would continue to attract the middle-class homebuyers who are the bedrock of what makes our neighborhood special. Every year I get outsiders who stop and remark how wonderful our neighborhood looks. Not just the boulevards but they notice how well people take care of their yards. I have talked to people outside of Peoria, who poo poo the West Bluff as being dangerous and run down. I asked them have they ever been here? Have they ever driven through? Once they have, their impressions change. One remarked that our neighborhood was like a Hollywood set. The care of our public space is critical to how people view our neighborhood. To best achieve this and to ensure that the boulevards continue to be a positive asset, we need more help.

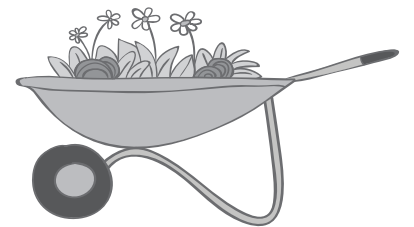
What is needed? As a gardener, you adopt an endpoint, or midpoint. You would be responsible for plantings, weeding, mulching, and perhaps watering. Keep it looking nice. In the spring and autumn, some cleanup is necessary. With only one garden space, it really isn't a huge time commitment. The garden is your canvas. There are some challenges. The spaces are very dry, are exposed to salt, and the soil is not the greatest. Traffic can be a concern for some folks. I find dropping a cone or leaving my wagon in the road, helps keep drivers focused. Those residents who live along Columbia Terrace and Institute are best positioned to help but we can take volunteers from elsewhere.

What we do have? We have a limited budget through the generous donations of URA members. With that money, we do buy mulch. We could use the funds for perennials or shrubs. We are in the process of planning to renovate/replace the yew bushes along Columbia Terrace. In the distant past, the Park District used to supply annuals but this no longer occurs. So, the purchase of annuals is left to the individual gardener.

Where do we need help? Both endpoints at Columbia Terrace and Glenwood, the midpoints on Columbia Terrace (1300, 1500, 1600 blocks), and almost all of Institute south of Columbia Terrace.

If you think you can help this year let me know.

J.R. Hinchee,
mahkno@comcast.net
1st Vice President
Beautification Chair
U of I Extension Master Gardener



Uplands Residential Association Dues

The URA dues are \$20.00 per year. Please make checks payable to "The Uplands Residential Association." If you are interested in donating extra money to our beautification fund, please indicate this on the registration form. You may include the additional amount on the same check as your dues.

Your URA dues can now be paid online! We have set up a Paypal account for your convenience. To do so, please visit Paypal.com, click Send, enter the URA email address (TheUplandsPeoria@gmail.com) and the amount, click "Continue," and follow additional prompts. Your dues will be deposited directly into the URA's Checking Account.

The Uplands Residential Association is on Facebook and Yahoo Groups! You can also email us at TheUplandsPeoria@gmail.com. If you have information for The Uplander, please contact Tamara Black-Waite at tblackwaite@gmail.com. If you are new to the Uplands or know someone who is, contact Kirk Sheckler at 369-1372.

URA Membership Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____

YES! I/WE will pay our \$20 association dues, and contribute an additional \$ _____ for beautification.

Send completed form with payment to URA Treasurer Dustin Draggist, P.O. Box 6532, Peoria, IL 61601-6532.

Uplands Residential Association Officers:

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