



THE UPLANDER

THE UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION, EST. 1902



JUNE 2017

VOLUME 117, ISSUE 6

UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION MEETING AGENDA JUNE 8, 2017—7:00 P.M.

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Regular Business
 - A. Welcome and Introductions
 - B. Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting
 - C. Treasurer's Report
- III. Snow Removal Discussion with Mike Blunier and Scott Reiese
- IV. Reports
 - A. West Bluff Council
 - B. Western Avenue Greenway
 - C. Other Committees
- V. Unfinished Business
- VI. New Business
 - A. Annual Picnic Planning
 - B. Other New Business
- VII. Adjournment

Uplands Residential Association Meeting Minutes Thursday, May 11, 2017

Meeting started at 7pm.

Regular Business

Minutes from prior meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Debits</u>
Membership Dues x 9: \$180	Uplander printing: \$105
Beautification Fund: \$130	PayPal fees: \$0

Available Balance: \$4,778.46

Beautification Fund Balance: \$1,855.95

Total Paid Members: 49

Election

Thanks to Pete and Desiree for serving on the nominating committee for secretary.

Results of the election:

President – C. J. Summers	Treasurer – Dustin Draggist
1st VP – J. R. Hinchee	Secretary – Meredith Messina
2nd VP – Steve Tyler	

Thanks to Pete Magsig for being the secretary for the last 2 years.

West Bluff Council

The Peoria police department is doing a bodycam trial. They have three cameras, one for each shift. The video is available through the Freedom of Information Act. If, during an incident, a 3rd party requests that the camera be turned off it must be turned off. This does not apply to person being arrested or detained by the police. The program is paid through federal grant.

The West Bluff approved a motion to write a letter to the city in support of due diligence investigation of the acquisition of the Peoria water district by the city, to be delivered to the Mayor and Council.

Western Avenue Greenway: No report

Unfinished Business

Members of the URA board will contact Scott Reiese to discuss the next rounds of speedbump deployment, both temporary and permanent, in the Uplands. We recommend the temporary speed bump go in the segment of Parkside south of Columbia Terrace. We recommend the next permanent speed bump be placed where the temporary one was last year.

We have mulch. JR is pursuing replacing the yew trees.

New Business

Congratulations to Steve Tyler on becoming the litter czar for Peoria. He is looking for volunteers. Please contact him if interested.

Dumpster Day is Saturday June 17th.

Neighborhoods are responsible for emptying trashcans along Main and University. The cans are placed there at the request of people in the neighborhoods, who are responsible for emptying them. Shall the URA track who is doing this, and can we investigate having PDC collect those for us, with funds coming from the URA beautification fund? – Steven to investigate.

The URA meeting schedule for the coming year was presented and approved:

- June 8, 2017	- No December meeting
- No July meeting	- January 11, 2018
- August 10, 2017	- February 8, 2018
- September 9, 2017 – Saturday	- March 8, 2018
Picnic takes place of meeting	- April 12, 2018
- October 12, 2017	- May 10, 2018
- November 9, 2017	

The issue with the Post Office requesting repositioning of mailboxes was discussed. It was decided that Pete would draft a proposal to the West Bluff Council supporting keeping them as they are.

CJ investigated a quote for getting snow removal on all sidewalks.

2" - 3" - \$500
3" - 6" \$825
6" - 9" \$1150

How to fund this will be a topic of the June URA meeting. Funding will have to be done by residents of the Uplands. Various approaches will be discussed. Please join us if you have ideas.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Hello neighbors!

As the temperatures heat up this summer, what better time to talk about ... **Snow!** Snow? Yes, at this month's Uplands Residential Association Meeting, we'll be talking about snow! Specifically, we'll be looking at the feasibility of having a professional service clear the neighborhood's public sidewalks when we get a significant amount of snowfall this coming winter. We'll have special guests Mike Blunier from Blunier Builders (they do snow removal and have given us a quote) and Peoria Public Works Director Scott Reiese. Please see the "Snow Removal" article for more details.

We will also start making plans for the annual **Uplands Picnic**, which takes place the second Saturday in September each year. That's **September 9** this year—save the date! I know it seems like a long time from now, but we don't meet in July, and by the time of our August meeting, we'll only be a month out, so June is the time we need to get the ball rolling. Let us know your ideas for games and other activities that we can include this year. Plus, we can always use more volunteers. Are you new to the neighborhood? This is a great way to get involved and meet your neighbors without taking on a lot of commitment.

Dumpster Day in the Uplands (Neighborhood Cleanup) will be **Saturday, June 17**. The dumpster will be at the corner of Columbia Terrace and Institute. This will be a regular trash dumpster, so landscape waste, electronics, and hazardous chemicals are **not** permitted.

Find out all the other news of neighborhood happenings at this month's **URA Meeting** Thursday, June 8, 2017. We meet at the Bradley-Epworth United Methodist Church at the corner of Columbia Terrace and Elmwood. Use the Elmwood entrance and head downstairs. Hope to see you there!

If you're not currently on either the Yahoo Group or Nextdoor.com, you really should sign up. *The Uplander* only comes out once a month, but there are things happening in the Uplands all the time, and being on one of our email lists is a great way to keep in touch and stay informed. It's really easy to sign up—just go to groups.yahoo.com/uplands and click "Join Group" and/or go to uplandspeoria.nextdoor.com and click "Sign Up."

Sincerely,

C. J. Summers

Snow Removal

by C. J. Summers

This may be a crazy idea, but then it may be so crazy that it just might work.

The City of Peoria requires homeowners to clear the public sidewalk in front of their property when it snows. However, this is rarely (if ever) enforced in residential neighborhoods. That means that many properties don't get shoveled, making the



sidewalks impassable after heavy snowfalls. To make matters worse, since our sidewalks in the Uplands abut the street, they often get buried in heavy, packed down snow from the street when the city plow comes through, making it harder for conscientious homeowners to clear and keep clear.

That got me thinking: What if we hired a service to clear all the public sidewalks of the neighborhood for us? Businesses hire private contractors to clear their parking lots; why not have the URA hire a private contractor to clear our sidewalks? There are many benefits:

- Snow would be removed consistently, making the sidewalk system usable. Currently, after a major snowfall, some parts of the sidewalk are shoveled the full width of the pavement, others just have a small path, and still others aren't cleared at all. Patchwork clearing of sidewalks is effectively the same as no clearing of the sidewalks.
- Pedestrians wouldn't have to walk in the street. The Uplands has many pedestrians: Children/students walking to school or the bus stop, Bradley professors/staff walking to work, residents visiting area businesses, etc. Currently, these people all have to walk in the street (which the city plows) because they can't traverse the sidewalks. This is unsafe.

- Through coordination with the city, sidewalks could be cleared without fear of them getting repacked later by city plows. Right now, residents who shovel in the morning before work have their efforts nullified because the city plows come by later in the morning and bury the sidewalk again. This not only makes more work for the residents, it makes the sidewalks impassable again until they can be re-shoveled.

- Heavy snow would be removed by appropriately-sized equipment. When a particularly heavy snow occurs, and then the street snow is plowed onto the sidewalk, it is often too heavy to lift/remove for the average person. A private contractor would be using a mini-tractor that has sufficient horsepower to move these mounds without residents breaking their backs.

You get the idea. But the big question is, can we afford it? How much would it cost? Is it even feasible? The only way to find out is to get an estimate, which is what I did. First, I decided that there would have to be a threshold before we had a professional service clear the snow. There's no need to bring out heavy equipment for an inch of snow. Then I went searching for a quote for snowfall of two inches or more per snow event.

Campustown and Avanti's use Blunier Builders to clear their parking lots, and they're used by many other businesses in Peoria. Mike Blunier, who will be at our June URA meeting, provided the following quote. This is a "per push" quote, meaning that each time they come out, the following fees would apply, based on how deep the snow is:

- 2-2.9" would be \$500
- 3-5.9" would be \$850
- 6-8.9" would be \$1,150

I don't know about you, but that gave me a bit of sticker shock initially. But then I started thinking about it some more. That would actually be quite affordable if we had sufficient numbers of households in the Uplands paying their annual dues. At \$20 per year per household, with nearly 400 households in our neighborhood, we could have \$8,000 per year if everyone participated. This would be more than enough to cover snow removal for even the worst winter.

Acknowledging that we will probably never have full participation, however, I still think there are ways to accomplish this. One way is to up the threshold from 2" to 3". If we only have the private contractor clear the sidewalks when the snowfall is three or more inches, it wouldn't cost as much since there are fewer snow events that drop that much snow. Another way is to set up a snow removal fund, similar to our beautification fund. More money could be added in years when there's not a lot of snow events so that we can cover those years when we have a lot of snow. It helps average things out over time. And, perhaps by adding this service, more households will see the value of contributing to the URA.

I will be providing additional data at our June meeting. I hope you can attend and provide your suggestions. In the meantime, feel free to email me at summers1202@sbcglobal.net with your thoughts on this new potential benefit to the neighborhood.



Eric Grebner
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Celebrating our "41st" year as a Family Owned Business

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.