



THE

# UPLANDER

THE UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION, EST. 1902



FEBRUARY 2019

VOLUME 119, ISSUE 1

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Hello neighbors!

Quite a winter we're having, isn't it? Snow, severe cold, multiple closures—feels more like Minnesota than Illinois lately! Hope you're all staying warm this challenging season.

### Recycling

Lots going on this year in the Uplands. As you know, the new solid waste contract with the City went into effect in January, and many of us were surprised to find out that they moved recycling pickup to the curb instead of the alleys. As of this writing, we're still working with the City to get that decision reversed. Stay tuned to the Yahoo Group e-mail or Nextdoor for the latest information. (It's easy to sign up for either of these and control how much mail hits your inbox. More information on signing up is printed elsewhere in the Uplander.) Just a reminder that the change only affects recycling—regular garbage and landscape waste pickup (in season) remains in the alley. Hopefully recycling pickup will also be back in the alley before you even get this newsletter.

### Sidewalk Snow Removal

Our sidewalk snow removal has been a real blessing this year, especially with the 10.7-inch snowfall we had January 12. Having the sidewalks cleared after that one, especially along Main Street, was no easy task. Blunier (our contractor for snow removal) had to bring in heavier equipment to get the snow removed after that major event. It was more than any person could handle unaided. That's precisely the kind of situation for which we wanted to establish the snow removal fund in the first place.

As a result of the above-normal snowfall (both in amount of snow and number of snow events) this season, we're rapidly depleting our fund. We had a little over 50% participation rate this year—if you weren't able to give toward the fund during our drive last fall, would you consider pitching in now and helping us meet the need for the rest of the winter? It's only \$20 and covers clearing of the public sidewalks for the whole season for all snowfalls of two inches or more.

I hope you'll consider the benefits of this effort. Even for those of you who don't walk, but drive everywhere instead, consider the benefit of the pedestrians being able to use the sidewalks instead of walking in the street where you're trying to drive. It really does benefit everyone in some way.

### Strategic Planning

Beginning in March, our neighborhood is going to start on the process of establishing a Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District for the interior of the Uplands and a Form-Based District for the perimeter of the neighborhood that faces Main and University Streets. You may recall that we started looking at these possibilities last year and have had several discussions on it at our monthly meetings. All feedback has been favorable, so we're moving forward with it.

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## SNOW REMOVAL FUND!

Thanks to all the snow already this winter, we are still accepting contributions to the Uplands Snow Removal Fund.

If you already contributed, thank you, but you can help replenish the fund if you are so inclined. If you have not yet contributed, please consider helping us out. Any unused money will be rolled over into next year's fund.

You can mail your donation to URA Treasurer Dustin Draggist, P.O. Box 6532, Peoria, IL 61601-6532, drop off a payment at 1320 N. Institute in the mail slot inside the front porch (there is a sign above the slot) or PayPal your payment to TheUplandsPeoria@gmail.com.



## UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION

### MEETING AGENDA

FEBRUAR 14, 2019—7:00 P.M.

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Candidates to Address the URA (5 minutes/candidate)
- 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
  - A. Recycling Pickup
  - B. Strategic Planning
  - C. Other Unfinished Business
- VI. New Business
- VII. Adjournment

## URA Meeting 1/10/19 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.

Minutes from November meeting were approved as read.

### Reports

**West Bluff Council** - Discussion about the importance of keeping on street parking in older, historic neighborhoods. There was no dissention.

**Greenway** - No update.

### Treasurer's Report

#### Deposits

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Membership Dues     | \$0 |
| Beautification Fund | \$0 |
| Snow Removal Fund   | \$0 |

#### Debits

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Uplander printing. | \$0        |
| PayPal fees.       | \$0.0      |
| Snow Removal       | \$1,732.50 |

**Available Balance TOTAL**

\$8,304.72

**Beautification Fund Balance**

\$1,590.59

**Snow Removal**

\$3,032.28

**Total Paid Members**

0

Dustin reviewed the invoices from the two snows in November - the first push was 2-2.9 in (\$515) and the second snow push was 3-5.9in (\$850). They did the clean up second pass after the plows finished on 11/27, (\$367.5).

### Unfinished Business

**Planters** - Mike Van Cleve did not get around to decorating the planters and will return the \$75 payment the URA made in November.

**Form based code (FBC) vs Neighborhood conservation overlay district (NCOD)** - Deferred until CJ can talk with Ross about next steps and city recommendations.

**Wreaths** - New wreaths were not purchased, but money has been allocated to replace during the off season. Some wreaths are already coming down, and will be stored with designated residents.

### New business

**Former Pi Phi House** - CRU, a Bradley Christian student group would like to buy the building and have requested a special use permit for the building. The Planning/Zoning Commission approved the request, and Ross Black clarified the approval requirements for who could live in the residence and safety

minutes continued

updates. JR reviewed specific code violations that need to be corrected before the final review. Councilman Grayeb has requested our feedback to bring to the next Council meeting. Jerry moved that the URA would support special use permit approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission, with the addition that there is no transferability if the group sells the property. Steven seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Alley/Curb Recycling Change** - CJ raised concerns about the switch, since one of the purposes of the alley is for garbage pickup, and possible conflict with our snow removal contract. Other residents echoed his concerns, and JR brought in the letter PDC sent in early January, as well as conflicting information from the City of Peoria that specified alley pickup. Bernie moved that the URA send a "strongly worded letter" to the Councilmen, Mayor, and City Manager voicing displeasure at the conflicting information between the City and PDC, and requesting that the Council ensure that PDC to continue with alley recycling pickup. Jerry seconded the motion. Bernie requested that CJ share the letter with the West Bluff Council.

**Council Candidates (City Council and Park Board)** - Candidates are requesting to come speak with the URA. Residents discussed scheduling a night for all candidates to come after the February primary. All agreed to allow Mike VanCleve to come to speak for 10 minutes at the URA March meeting. CJ will alert his opponent, Johnson, and invite him as well.

**Street Sweepers** - Linda raised concern that the leaves were not removed from the gutters on Maplewood, despite requests with the street sweepers. CJ will follow up on behalf of the URA.

**Historical Review Board** - The Board is reviewing each neighborhood association and compiling information on each historic neighborhood. If any residents have anything to share the history of the Uplands, contact Suzanne Jackson at Sonyun@aol.com.

**Rats** - Linda brought up the concern of rats being seen in multiple houses on Maplewood. If you see rats, contact the City to let them know there is a problem.

**Dues** - The annual request for 2019 dues will go out in the next Uplander with a dues envelope.

Next meeting is February 14th.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

President's Comments continued

These initiatives will help us "retain the original vision of The Uplands as a single-family residential neighborhood" and "curtail commercial infringements that tend to congest The Uplands, lessen property values in The Uplands, or endanger its residents," as our by-laws state. It will help us do this in a proactive way. I hope you all will participate in the effort. We'll be providing more information in the next Uplander.

**Dues**

You should find attached to this Uplander a return envelope. Being the beginning of the year, if you didn't pay your dues at the picnic in September, this is a reminder that they're due now. The dues are \$20, and this is separate from the snow removal fund. The dues go toward printing the Uplander and the annual picnic, primarily, plus any other needs that the Uplands may have. In the past, we've used funds for new signage, neighborhood beautification, and other improvements. Also, only dues-paying members can vote at URA meetings and for URA officers. I hope you'll consider pitching in again this year.

**Candidates at our next meeting**

The next meeting of the Uplands Residential Association is Thursday, February 14, at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Bradley Epworth Church, corner of Elmwood and Columbia Terrace. We've had a couple of candidates for the Park District ask to address us at our next meeting. They are Mike Van Cleve, who is running for Park Board President, and Joyce Harant, who is running for Central District Trustee on the Park Board. As a courtesy to the other candidates, we have invited them, too, so there may be additional candidates at the meeting.

We're hopeful to have a closer working relationship with the Park Board, so this is an opportunity to build relationships with the candidates who are running and let them know our needs and desires for the park that borders our neighborhood. I hope you are able to attend. See you all soon!

Sincerely,

C. J. Summers

**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. Make checks payable to Uplands Residential Association or URA Treasurer.

**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.

**Uplands Residential Association Officers:**

**President: C.J. Summers**

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

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.