



T H E UPLANDER

THE UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION, EST. 1902



JUNE 2019

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

May 2019

Dear Neighbors,

At our last meeting we encountered something new: there weren't enough nominations for **Uplands Residential Association Officers** to cover all the positions. In fact, we're missing two key positions: Secretary and Treasurer. These positions are elected annually, so if you see the value of the Association and can give your time to fill one of these positions, even if it's just for one year, we would love to have you get involved. The Secretary takes minutes at the meetings for publication in the Uplander, and the Treasurer takes in dues and other contributions, pays the bills, and provides a report at the monthly URA meeting. As time commitment goes, it's pretty minimal. If you can serve your neighbors in this way, please contact me at summers1202@sbcglobal.net or 673-8177.

We probably don't talk enough about the benefits of having a neighborhood association. The URA exists to preserve the Uplands as a single-family residential neighborhood, protect and improve green areas in and around the neighborhood, maintain the safety of the streets, sidewalks, and alleys, curtail zoning violations, and curtail commercial infringements that would threaten the character of the neighborhood. These are all issues that residents care about, and having an organization to address them ensures that everyone has input and that we speak with one voice to our elected representatives locally and regionally.

We've been able to accomplish great things together this way: traffic has been significantly slowed on our streets with the installation of speed humps, lower speed limits, and digital "your speed is" radar signs; sidewalks have been cleared of snow the past two years; commercial encroachment/expansion has been stemmed (one major example from several years ago—Walgreens had wanted to build on the corner where Avanti's is now, and the Association was successful in keeping that from happening). Thanks to past URA involvement and the vigilance of past officers, we were also able to save the mature trees along University when that street was widened.

The Uplands is a real gem in Peoria, but it takes work and commitment from the neighbors to keep it that way. Your contribution by serving on the board helps us preserve the beauty and desirability of our neighborhood. There are lots of ways to get involved: serving on the board, serving on a committee for a particular task (like the picnic committee), participating in neighborhood cleanups, being a block captain, attending URA meetings, paying dues (only \$20/year per household), etc. I hope you'll consider getting involved this summer.

Speaking of the annual **Uplands Picnic**, it's time to start planning for this year's event which will be September 14 (always the second Saturday in September). Save the date! Let us know your ideas for games and other activities you'd like to see. Volunteer to be on the planning committee—it's a really fun way to get involved and meet new neighbors.

We're continuing our strategic planning this month at the **URA Meeting**. Our next meeting is Thursday, June 13, 2019. 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!

Sincerely,

C. J. Summers

UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION

MEETING AGENDA

JUNE 13, 2019—7:00 P.M.

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Regular Business
 - A. Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting
 - B. Treasurer's Report
- III. Reports
 - A. West Bluff Council
 - B. Western Avenue Greenway
 - C. Other Committees
- IV. Unfinished Business
 - A. URA Officer Nominations
 - B. Strategic Planning – Leah Allison, Senior Urban Planner
 - C. Other Unfinished Business
- VI. New Business
 - A. Annual Picnic Planning Kick-off
 - B. Other New Business
- VII. Adjournment

URA MEETING 5/9/19 MINUTES

Called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Six people in attendance. C.J. Summers filled in as secretary, as he was the only officer present.

Regular Business

Election of URA Officers for 2019–2020

Only two returning positions are President and First VP. Need treasurer, secretary, and second VP. Maggie Summers volunteered for Second VP. Bernie Goitein moved and Jerry Jackson seconded to accept the slate for President (C. J. Summers), First Vice President (J .R. Hinchee), and Second Vice President (Maggie Summers), and extend our search for a Treasurer and Secretary for one more month. Passed unanimously.

Minutes of the previous meeting not published yet. Decided to approve minutes at next meeting.

Outgoing treasurer is not here, so no treasurer report; will provide update next month.

Reports

Western Ave Greenway - No update.

West Bluff Council - Bernie Goitein reported that discussion continued on the alley pickup of recycling, as we're still in a temporary situation through June. Bernie will continue to report to West Bluff Council that we're still very concerned about it, and we would be willing to cooperate with Center Bluff and Moss Bradley to push for a permanent solution (alleys, every other week). Beth Hinchee told West Bluff Council she would be willing to walk through the neighborhood with PDC and explain why pickup at the street doesn't work from an engineering standpoint. Uplands was recognize for its "creative wonderfulness" with the snow removal fund, and they would like to have us tell them how we did it.

Nominating Committee - (Burgit Smith) reported via email that there were no candidates found for open positions.

Strategic Planning: Leah Allison was not able to attend due to illness, but suggested several items via email. She said:

I thought the first step would be to collect data. As much data about the neighborhood as possible. This would include:

- Inventory of housing types and conditions
- Owner-occupied vs rental
- Existing land uses & zoning
- Population demographics
- Historical information about the neighborhood
- List of neighborhood stakeholders

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Is there a team of neighborhood volunteers that would be able to assist with this? I can gather information for owner-occupied/rental and the population demographics.

There was discussion. Bernie Goitein would like to address cut-through traffic as part of the strategic planning process. He also suggested making the frontage along Main Street a greenway similar to the Western Avenue Greenway.

Stakeholders identified were: Residents, Avanti's, Bradley-Epworth Church, landlords, Chi Alpha, Peoria Park District, and any other landowners in the Uplands proper. Businesses or institutions across Main or University streets were not considered stakeholders, other than when looking at streetscapes, in which case we would want to include University East and Columbia Terrace North neighborhood associations, Bradley University, One World, and Campus Town.

Much of the requested information is already included in the 1996 Uplands Neighborhood Plan, and would just need to be updated.

Other Unfinished Business

The Uplands received "Golden Shovel Award" at last City Council meeting in April. Thank you to everyone in the Uplands that made this possible!

New Business

Outgoing secretary Meredith Messina provided some suggestions via email regarding how the Uplands Residential Association could encourage more participation:

...[W]hat if summer URA meetings were held on front porches (or back yards) with drinks/snacks? A mini-picnic type feel, to capitalize on the warm weather, the famed Uplands porches, and allows folks to casually come be a part of URA conversations. What if we could offer child care for meetings at the church? We might incorporate a historic walk of the neighborhood, or hold winter meetings in different homes?

People are much more likely to volunteer when they know what they are volunteering for-- organizing the picnic, snow fund, beautification or even historical preservation... tapping into specific interests will likely gain volunteers that need to focus their volunteer hours on specific ideas they are excited about.

Discussion ensued. Everyone was favorable toward the idea of having the meetings in homes. We would just need people to volunteer to host. It was also suggested that we could meet in the park when the weather is good.

Adjourn 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

C.J. Summers



WELCOME BACK "NEW" NEIGHBORS!

Terry and Amy Dixon
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MADIGAN'S



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

Uplands Residential Association Officers:

President: C.J. Summers
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Treasurer: Dustin Draggist
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1st VP: J.R. Hinchee
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2nd VP: Steve Tyler
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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.

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.

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 Steven Marx at info@stevenmarx.com. If you are new to the Uplands or know someone who is, contact Kirk Sheckler at 369-1372.