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UPLANDER

THE UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION, EST. 1902



APRIL 2019

VOLUME 119, ISSUE 3

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Hello neighbors!

Easter is coming up, and that means the Easter Bunny will be hiding some eggs for our **Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20!** Thank you to Meredith Messina and Jackie Armich for coordinating the hunt again this year. The fun begins at 10 a.m. at the Christopher Columbus statue (Columbia Terrace and Parkside). Meredith says, "If your child(ren) would like to participate, please provide 10 filled eggs per kiddo. You can leave them on Jackie Armich's front porch (1203 N. Institute Pl.) between now and Friday, April 19. Everyone is welcome! Come and celebrate outside with your neighbors!"

It's spring cleaning time, and there are a couple of events coming up soon that will help you in your cleaning efforts. The first is **Dumpster Day on Saturday, April 20.** The City of Peoria will be providing a large dumpster at the corner of Columbia Terrace and Institute Place. This can be used for cleaning up our streets and properties of any litter and other debris that has accumulated over the winter, as well as any large/bulky items that you can't put out in your regular trash pickup. Please note that this dumpster is for regular trash, *not* electronics or landscape waste.

The second spring cleaning event is our annual **Neighborhood Garage Sale on Saturday, May 3.** Thank you to Kay Ahl for once again heading up the effort to put an ad in the Peoria Journal Star and put out signs at the neighborhood entrances. I hope many of you are able to participate this year!

As you all know, there has been quite a bit of confusion regarding recycling pickup this year. The City signed a contract that moved recycling pickup to the streets in the front of our homes instead of the alleys behind our homes where all other solid waste is picked up. The neighborhoods of the West Bluff and other areas of the City with alleys have been trying to get the City to correct this error and move all waste pickup back to the alleys where it belongs. While the City is negotiating this contract change with Peoria Disposal Company (PDC), we're on a *temporary* once-per-month pickup schedule. **Recycling pickup will be in the alleys on April 2, May 7, and June 4.** By July, the Council should have come to an agreement with PDC to pick up recycling in the alleys every other week—the same frequency as the rest of the City. Special thanks to Councilman Grayeb for his help in getting this corrected.

The annual **URA elections are coming up on May 9.** A nominating committee has been appointed, so if you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Burgit Smith at burgitpaul@yahoo.com. The slate will be published in the next edition of the Uplander. Also, just a reminder that only dues-paying members can vote, so if you want to vote at the May meeting, be sure to submit your dues for 2019. You can pay by check, or it's also very easy to pay via PayPal. Just visit [Paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com), click Send, enter the URA email address (TheUplandsPeoria@gmail.com) and the amount, click "Continue," and follow the additional prompts.

At our last URA meeting, we kicked off our strategic planning efforts with assistance from Leah Allison and Kerilyn Gallagher from the City of Peoria. Our plan is to continue setting aside time at each of our upcoming meetings to accomplish the following:

- Phase 1: Collect data on existing conditions, land use, demographics, community assets, history of neighborhood, etc.; Identify neighborhood stakeholders, leadership team.
- Phase 2: Neighborhood outreach to identify issues, needs, likes, dislikes, etc.; From this, prioritize issues, strategies, and actions, and draft a plan/neighborhood overlay.
- Phase 3: Finalize the plan/neighborhood overlay; Review and approval by Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council

Hope to see you all at the **next URA meeting, Thursday, April 11, at 7 p.m.!**

Sincerely,

C. J. Summers

UPLANDS RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION MEETING AGENDA APRIL 11, 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. Nomination Committee
 - D. Other Committees
- IV. Unfinished Business
 - A. Strategic Planning
 - B. Other Unfinished Business
- VI. New Business
- VII. Adjournment

Important Dates

APRIL 20 — EASTER EGG HUNT (10 A.M.)

APRIL 20 — DUMPSTER DAY

MAY 3 — UPLANDS GARAGE SALE

MAY 7 — RECYCLING PICKUP

MAY 9 — URA MEETING / OFFICER ELECTION

JUNE 4 — RECYCLING PICKUP

Uplands Residential Association Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 14, 2019

Called to order 7pm.

Introduction of candidate

Peter Kobak - experience working for the city 2+ years fulltime on Innovation Team. Decriminalizing marijuana, raising minimum wage, welcoming city ordinance. Reinvest in urban core and historic neighborhoods, segregation. What's missing from the strategic plan? Equity at the front. Centers poverty and racial segregation. Community Benefit Agreements, Inclusionary zoning.

Approved minutes from January meeting.

Treasurer's Report (Dustin will submit soon)

Snow Removal Fund - Pete reported that he hit two streets with flyers and made up the fund. The fund is now \$200.

Reports

West Bluff Council - Discussion about alleys for PDC trash/recycling pickup
Western Ave/Greenway - No report.

Unfinished Business

Recycling pickup - No final solution after the special council meeting two weeks ago. PDC gets paid for each toter they pickup. The City and PDC has disagreement about how many toters there are. City wants to use the difference as leverage to continue biweekly alley pickup.

For now, there will be monthly recycling pickup in the alleys (April, June, July), and move to a biweekly alley pickup in August.

Neighborhood Conservation District/Form Overlay -
Guest Speakers: Leah Allison and Kerilyn Gallagher (City of Peoria Planners)

The URA hopes to preserve the historic character of the neighborhood, single-family
Continued on back

Continued from front

homes, and the exterior borders of the neighborhood that are susceptible to encroachment from Bradley or rental properties.

Leah Allison outlined two ways we can approach it.

1. Neighborhood Plan - The Uplands had a neighborhood plan in 1996. R4 is single family, with a few nonresidential at Main/Univ., and some nonconforming uses along Main.
2. Form Based Code- prioritizes the outward facing borders of the neighborhood, with a Neighborhood Conservation District on the interior.

NCD has not been implemented in Peoria before. We haven't seen examples of it in other cities.

Kerilyn reported that the existing code already requires that a new structure has to match the previous homes setback, the stories of the houses on each side, and other requirements for front porches and garages.

Discussion about language of the current code, original requirements set out when the neighborhood was created, upkeep of rundown houses, landscaping option (instead of rebuilding along borders a property owner could create greenspace).

The next step would be to schedule a charrette to get neighbor participation and invite creative input, facilitated by the City Planning Committee. Leah and Kerilyn will come up with a few options and possible dates, and we will schedule a meeting to make a decision.

Questions were asked of the planners about mailbox placement, water lines and other utility placement, and alley safety and upkeep.

Directory - Burgit is updating the directory. He has a printing price for \$900, and will work on reducing the cost with advertising.

New Business

Nominating Committee - Elections are in May, and a slate needs to be presented in April. Burgit volunteered, and JR appointed Dan Armitch. The new board will take over in May.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

Property Maintenance Plan

by Josiah Williams, City of Peoria

As the seasons transition from winter to spring, the Community Development Department would like to encourage residents to develop a maintenance plan for yard work and commonly seen property maintenance issues.

Putting a plan together in early spring will ensure your property is maintained year-round and your neighborhood will continue to look beautiful. An environmental maintenance plan should address the following issues:

- Garbage must be placed in a container with a tight-fitting lid, and garbage cans must be returned from the alley within 24 hours of pickup. Loose trash and litter cause blight and contribute to rat issues.
- Grass and weeds cannot exceed ten inches in length. This includes growth in fence lines, around foundations, and at the alley. If there is a privacy fence on the property, the alley side of the fence must be maintained. Tall grass decreases property values and can lead to mosquito issues.
- Limbs, branches, and debris must be removed from the property. Maintenance plans should address branches that fall off during a storm to ensure they are removed in a timely manner.
- Litter must be removed from the entire property, including the alley, around porches, curb lines, and fence lines. Residents are encouraged to support the neighborhood by picking up litter.
- Vehicles cannot be parked on an unpaved surface. This includes the front yard, back yard, side yard, and along the alley. If you have questions on how to add additional parking to your property, please contact the Community Development Department's Development Center at (309) 494-8600.
- Vehicles parked on the property must be licensed and operable, tags must be current, and the vehicle cannot be in disrepair. Inoperable vehicles are an eyesore and cause blight in neighborhoods.

If you notice properties not being maintained in your neighborhood, please submit a complaint through the City of Peoria website or the Peoria Cares Application that is available for iPhones and Androids. You can also call 309-494-CARE. Property maintenance is a simple way to appreciate our neighborhoods and give us all more reasons to appreciate Peoria.

Uplands Residential Association Officers:

President: C.J. Summers
1202 N. Institute Pl., 673-8177
summers1202@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Dustin Draggist
1310 N. Glenwood Ave.
dustindraggist@gmail.com

1st VP: J.R. Hinchee
1027 N. Maplewood Ave., 868-0110
mahkno@comcast.net

Secretary: Meredith Messina
1321 W. Parkside Dr., 206-962-7703
mcbmessina@gmail.com

2nd VP: Steve Tyler
1120 N. Elmwood Ave., 970-640-8617
styler@bradley.edu

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 Steve Marx at harpo64@mac.com. If you are new to the Uplands or know someone who is, contact Kirk Sheckler at 369-1372.

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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.