

Belle Meade
Neighborhood Association
Minutes: Monthly Meeting, May 14, 2011

- George Singleton of Upstate Circle of Friends opened the meeting with a welcome to those in attendance. He shared information regarding the upcoming summer camp for youth at the center. In addition to the educational piece, there will be enrichment and life skill opportunities for those who attend.
- Minutes of the Criminal Concerns Sub-Committee were shared. A motion was made by Harriet Cunningham to change the name to “Neighborhood Watch” on the recommendation of Officer Hill, Community Liaison to the Sheriff’s Office. The vote was unanimous to make the change.
- Special guest was Mr. John Devore, from the Greenville County Engineering and Maintenance Department who is in charge of the current sidewalk project on Ridgeway and Brookforest Drive the Belle Meade Community. In addition to sidewalks his responsibilities include: speed bumps, traffic control signs and guard rails. This project is funded by a \$1.1 million Federal Grant from the Department of Energy that encourages people to walk and not drive to promote the conservation of energy and health benefits of walking. “Ready to go projects” received the funding. No funds were allocated for engineering or administration, only concrete and labor.
- Belle Meade received the largest share of this grant, approximately \$200,000. The project is about 30% complete. The county placed notification in mailboxes of those who would be affected during the process to let them know what to expect.
- Mr. Devore shared that the process for getting addition speed bumps in the neighborhood
 1. Complete a Traffic Calming Application
 2. A traffic counter would be placed on the street (The count requirement is 750/day)
 3. 75% of the residents on the street would need to sign the request
 4. With appropriate documentation and justification the county will pay
 5. Request for special decorative patterns would have to be paid by the neighborhood
 6. There is a C-Fund Assistance program (money comes from the gas tax) that can help with county & state road improvements that are safety related like sidewalks and improvements at intersections – need documentation like photos of people walking for exercise, etc. For additional information call 467-7015 or fax 467-7151.
 7. Pine Creek Drive may already be on the list because of connectivity
- The county keeps a running list or log when requests are called in for additional sidewalks. The list is ranked by the Planning Commission and several factors are considered when ranking:
 - Is it a “walk to school” route – UCF qualifies
 - Cost
 - Ease of installation (drainage ditches & whether or not curbing is already in place)
 - Pedestrian traffic
 - Connectivity to existing sidewalks

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- A resident called in about the “tagging” of traffic signs. It is a policy to replace signs rather than clean them, but the community must report vandalism when we are aware of it because they cannot continue to replace signs in the same area.
- The Belle Meade Community is made up of both state roads, identified on the street signs with an “S” and county roads which are identified with a “D.” Each sign also has other identifying markings which help to determine who takes care of maintenance issues.
- Issues about state roads, like the bridge at the main entrance off of the Frontage Road should be reported to SCDOT at 864-241-1224. Requests for changes to state roads like additional stop signs should be directed to the state engineering department for consideration at 241-1010.
- Officer Natalie Hill returned to speak to the group about forming a Neighborhood Watch Committee. She continued to stress how important it is for the residents to report concerns to the Sheriff’s Department. Please refer to the minutes from the subcommittee meeting for details. Officer Hill provided 2 handouts for the group, a list of important phone numbers and a checklist for starting an effective Neighborhood Watch Program.

Monday, May 16, 2011

There was a recap of the Saturday meeting for those in attendance by George Singleton. The importance of understanding the process to bring about change was discussed and how we must work together for and against certain things. All in attendance agreed that there is a need for additional traffic calming to include speed limit signs, speed humps and additional sidewalks.

Mr. Anthony Smith expressed concerns about taking care of our property and code enforcement as it pertains to rental property. He expressed a desire to be active on a Neighborhood Clean Up subcommittee to aggressively work to get owners to clean up abandoned houses and lots.

Ms. Janice Smith shared that in researching code enforcement she learned that if violations are reported there are 3 warnings and then a fine if violations are in fact uncovered.

There was discussion from Mr. Smith about assisting senior citizens in the neighborhood with weatherizing and general lawn work. He spoke about having a group to act as a liaison to communicate on behalf of seniors to make sure they could take advantage of available services.

It was adjusted that we continue to notify residents door to door of upcoming meetings for a while and start to share a monthly calendar of upcoming events for the neighborhood.

Attendance on Monday evening is extremely low.

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