



Website: <http://www.oakwoodheightshoa.org>  
 FaceBook: Oakwood Heights Homeowners Association  
 NextDoor: Oakwood Heights

## MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES – 11/12/18

Meeting Information			
<b>Start Time:</b>	7:00 PM		<b>Facilitator(s):</b>
<b>End Time:</b>	8:00 PM		Lyndia Hayden
<b>Minutes Taker:</b>			
Lyndia Hayden			
Meeting Attendees			
Tom Andrika	Marvin Church	Derrickson Lawrence	<b>Guests:</b>
Dan Aronson	Alvenia Favard	Dionne Lewin	Daniel Jones, MV Building Commissioner
Clinton Boxhill	Carol Harvey	Melanie Martin	Shayne Brooks, MV Youth Commissioner
Jacqueline Brathwaite	Lyndia Hayden	Hysa Moultrie	Joe Gamils, Northeastern Roundtable
John Brathwaite	Randall Hayden	Michael Stermer	Rick Powers, Northeastern Roundtable
Andre Butler	Edith Jenkins	Marlene Wertheim	Jim & Shawn Dudukovich (Fleetwood)
Yvonne Butler	LaVerne Johnson		
Topics	Discussion highlights		
Membership Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual membership fee of \$25 per family is due. Please mail a check to the following: Oakwood Heights Homeowner Association Attention: Dan Aronson, Treasurer 16 Magnolia Avenue Mount Vernon, NY 10553</li> <li>Although everyone is aware that the funds collected are used to maintain the website and pay for expenses with social events, OHHA also contributes to a scholarship fund at Holmes Elementary. Dan Aronson has continued to contribute his personal funds to the scholarship for one student. The Organization should be able to extend the scholarship to more students.</li> </ul>		
Financial Accounting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dan briefly discussed the expenses and balance (see attached)</li> </ul>		
Welcome Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yvonne and Marlene are leading this Committee. They created Welcome packages for each Block Captain to deliver to new neighbors. The Block Captains are the key resources to extending the mission of the Organization to their neighbors. They will reach out to each Block Captain listed below. We are still looking for volunteers on unassigned blocks.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>East Sidney Avenue – Michael Stermer</li> <li>East Prospect Avenue – Angela Chi</li> <li>Esplanade Avenue – Derickson Lawrence</li> <li>Hudson Avenue – Wendy Attipoe</li> <li>Lorraine Avenue - Tom Andrika, Joe Johnson</li> <li>Magnolia Avenue – Stephanie Vasquez (looking for replacement)</li> <li>Sycamore Avenue – Marlene Wertheim, Lyndia Hayden</li> <li>Darwood Place – Unassigned</li> <li>East Lincoln Avenue – Unassigned</li> <li>Mersereau Avenue – Unassigned</li> <li>North Columbus – Unassigned</li> <li>Willard Avenue - Unassigned</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		



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<p>Alliance with other HOAs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Axel is communicating with other homeowner association leaders in Mount Vernon to forge an alliance. There is mutual interest in planning a panel discussion with several City Hall officials.</li> <li>• Two leaders from the Northeast Roundtable joined the meeting. Their organization is a consortium of neighborhood associations (i.e. Pasadena Park, Elmsmere, Chester Hill, Chester Heights) that do not meet on a continuous basis. Their mission is to plan events that have high impact. For example, they recently held a debate panel for the City Council candidates and had a session with State Senator Jeff Klein as a Keynote Speaker.</li> <li>• The Fleetwood Association recently held a meeting, at which County Legislator Lyndon Williams, Police Commissioner Shawn Harris and City Councilperson Delia Farquharson attended. Their Association has ~175 members (including businesses) and is active in obtaining grants. They secured a \$60,000 grant to improve safety at the Fleetwood train station area and have requested a traffic study in that area to obtain speed bumps and/or stop signs. They are also working on a \$200,000 grant to refurbish Pennington's field. They are trying to raise funds for another welcome sign, which costs \$2,800.</li> </ul>
<p>Special Guest, Building Commissioner Daniel Jones</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below is a summary of the discussions:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ He formerly worked for Con Ed, GE, PSE&amp;G and LIPA</li> <li>○ In current position for 3-1/2 months</li> <li>○ Building Department controls all buildings in the municipality. They provide all permits. Their mission is to update the paper processes.</li> <li>○ Confirmed that homeowner inherits violations from previous owners. The fines can be negotiated.</li> <li>○ Permit delays are due to limited resources – 1 Inspector (formerly 6 Inspectors and 2 Code Enforcers) to support 80,000 people.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Request was made to City Council for funds to implement a strategic plan to digitize the department (see attached)</li> <li>▪ Implemented kiosk to automate requests on a go-forward basis; briefly discussed the workflow process (see attached)</li> <li>▪ Proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Review Program to have external consultants perform the backload work (self-certification), with final approval from Bldg Dept (see attached)</li> <li>▪ Request was made to City Hall to enact legislation for a Vacant Building Registry, which would identify, register and track vacant buildings. It would hold the owners accountable and also give public access to anyone who is interested in advancing the rehabilitation of the properties.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Encouraged members to attend the City Council meetings that are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. There are also planning sessions that the public can attend.</li><li>○ Discussed collaborating with Planning Department to eliminate bottlenecks</li><li>○ Expressed frustration that funds are allocated to the General Fund; they are not segregated/dispensed per department (except Water Dept).</li></ul>
Open Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There was favorable feedback regarding the venue change. The intimate setting was preferred to meeting at the Library. Future meetings may be rotated in other homes.</li></ul>
Upcoming Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Holiday Party at Brian &amp; Jenny's home (Tentatively 12/28 or 12/29). An invite notice will be sent.</li></ul>