



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

MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES – 2/24/19

Meeting Information			
Start Time:	6:00 PM		Facilitator(s):
End Time:	8:00 PM		Axel Ebermann
Minutes Taker:			
Lyndia Hayden			
Meeting Attendees			
Dan Aronson	Lyndia Hayden	George Renwick	Guests:
Wendy Attipoe	Edith Jenkins	Sydney Renwick	Lyndon Williams, Westchester County Legislator
Alan Biegelson	Fiorella Kelley	Canchetta Temple-Hall	Mike Justino, President, Fleetwood Homeowners Assoc
Yiadom Boakye-Danquah	Derrickson Lawrence	Jenny Toomey	
Jacqueline Brathwaite	Dionne Lewin	Bill Wertheim	
John Brathwaite	Melanie Martin	Marlene Wertheim	
Andre Butler	Hysa Moultrie		
Topics	Discussion highlights		
Membership Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual membership fee of \$25 per family is due. Reminded everyone that cash is accepted at the meetings or you can mail a check to the following: Oakwood Heights Homeowner Association Attention: Dan Aronson, Treasurer 16 Magnolia Avenue Mount Vernon, NY 10553 		
Financial Accounting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See attached for the expenses and balance 		
Special Guest, County Legislator Lyndon Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Below is a summary of the discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total of 17 Legislators represent Westchester, working together to address issues. Memorial Field is part of a legacy program to preserve open space and invest in parks throughout Westchester County. The legacy projects have a maximum bond cap of \$10 million, which doesn't require a County Referendum. Memorial Field is the last legacy program that is not complete. Below is a history of events for Memorial Field: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2009: Capital Investment Committee supported and received approval of all Legislators, many of whom played on Memorial Field in their youth. A resolution was passed for \$9.7 million, which included design and construction for a state of the art field. This approval was during the recession when the cost of getting the work done was significantly less than it is today. There was an urgency to move forward, but the City of Mount Vernon was responsible for the work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1.4 million for design (accounted for) \$2.0 million for cleaning up the field (unaccounted for) 		



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<p>Special Guest, County Legislator Lyndon Williams</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2009-2011: Nothing was done on the project. ▪ 2011: There was a change in government to Mayor Ernie Davis. A ground breaking ceremony occurred and a new plan was proposed. ▪ 2011-2015: Mount Vernon worked on a new plan to restore the stadium vs demolish, but did not have the additional \$5 million that was required. Since the stadium was built in 1937, the cost for restoration was prohibitive. Other famous venues like Yankee Stadium and Mets Stadium faced the same challenge and decided to rebuild instead of restore. ▪ 2015: It was discovered that 18,000 tons of contaminated debris was dumped on the field. It is unknown who is responsible. This was done under Ernie Davis' reign. ▪ 2018: New County Executive, George Latimer, was elected. He met with Mayor Thomas and Comptroller Reynolds to propose a new agreement for the County to take control of the Memorial Field project with the condition that the City remove the debris. Mount Vernon would earn 100% of the revenue for events. Tennis courts would be built behind the Target and would be a City project. Due to infighting between the Mayor, City Council and Comptroller, no further meetings were scheduled to discuss Memorial Field. In addition, a lawsuit was filed against the City which prohibits action on the current tennis center. ▪ 2019: Mayor's office appeared in Court to declare they have the funds to remediate the debris problem, but the Comptroller claimed there are no funds. The judge declared the City government dysfunctional. The County Executive is supportive, but he is getting impatient. <p>Gary Pretlow secured \$5 million, but it is conditioned on the County being involved in the project. The County also has an additional \$6 million available. The estimated cost to remove the debris is up to \$2 million, but the City estimates the cost at \$400,000. An Engineer analysis is in progress.</p> <p>There is a clause in the new agreement to hire a forensic accountant to research the loss of \$2 million that was unaccounted for in 2009.</p>
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<p>Open Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State has authority through the Governor to remove candidates from office, but it is highly unusual. • The City Charter can be updated to expand oversight of the Comptroller. • Mount Vernon is the only City that has a Mayor, City Council and Comptroller. In other areas of Westchester, the Mayor is a part of the City Council. These communities changed over time. A referendum can change the structure. There are organizations that can assist with explaining and making the change. The pros and cons should be researched. • Lyndon and Gary nominated Clyde Isley for the Democratic mayoral candidate. Both of them believe that he is someone who has influence and can bring stability to the City. • The primary is June 25, moved from September. Anyone signing a petition must remember that only one signature is permitted per office to get on the ballot. This includes candidates that are grouped. • Everyone was encouraged to check with the Building Dept for outstanding permits. Many homeowners are getting surprised about permits they were unaware of. • There is a natural gas shortage in the area. If anyone is planning to convert from oil to gas, it was recommended to inquire about an application deadline. • Everyone was encouraged to check their water bills. Some people have reported an increase as much as 2x or 3x the normal rate within the last 6 months. • Lorraine Terrace should officially be a part of Oakwood Heights Homeowners Association. Axel will contact the President. • Be wary of people posing as Con Ed employees to solicit business. Ask for ID and ask detailed questions.
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD