

## **MYERS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 19, 2018**

The 2018 Annual Myers Park Neighborhood Association Inc. meeting was held on Thursday evening April 19 from 6:30 -8:30 pm at the City Community Room in Myers Park. The meeting was noticed by 9 street signs and through social media. 18 residents attended along with TPD Officer Ben Silver and John Baker for Tallahassee Neighborhood Services. Piers Rawling, MPNA President presided.

The first order of business was to elect Officers and Board Members for 2018 who will serve through 2019. Board member Vern Williams died this past year. Don Ramsey was elected to fill his seat on the Board of Directors, other officers are returning members. Members present introduced themselves prior to voting.

President: Dr. Piers Rawling

Vice Pres. & CONA Rep.: Peter Grasel

Treasurer: Cindy Cospers

Secretary: Donna Heald

Advisor: Dr. V. Jeanie Conner

Board Director: Gunilla Trull

Board Director: Don Ramsey

Dir. of Communications: Dixie Davis

Treas. Report: **Dues are now due to MPNA Mailing address P.O. Box 504, Tallahassee FL 32302. They are \$20 per household.** Our current bank account balance is \$3,417 including funds designated for *Friends of Myers Park*.

CONA: Peter Grasel our Council of Neighborhoods representative has nominated our neighborhood for an award.

Current Road Repaving: Pres. Rawling reported on a call from a City Engineer inquiring about MPNA's views on not replacing the plant islands on So. Meridian when they repave it. Neighbors at an informal meeting in Feb. opposed the loss of the islands that they planted and maintained by consent of the City. This vote to keep the islands was relayed to the City Engineer. Circle islands on Circle Drive were not removed during that repaving. It was reported that the speed bumps on repaved roads were to be replaced. Peter G. reported that R. Olmstead was told by an engineer surveying on S. Meridian that the City will just pave around the islands. Neighbors will need to keep watch.

Yellow Signs saying "**Neighborhood Security Camera in use**" were approved to be printed and sold by MPNA (\$10 each) at the 2/22/18 MPNA meeting. The signs are now in use on Oakland Ave. where the Savoy's have documented with their game camera that people and other strays wander our streets and yards in the middle of the night. Neighbors may buy and use the signs in their yards.

TPD Officer Ben Silver was the guest speaker on Neighborhood Watch. He is the officer assigned to Woodland Drives NA and MPNA. Police stats are available online, with 3 postings a day by googling *Tallahassee Online Police Stats*. Our area reports include the So. Monroe commercial area. Piers R. questioned the seasonality of daytime break-ins. Officer Silver had a handout on Auto Burglary which is considered a crime of opportunity, mainly because people do not lock their cars, and leave phones and computers, etc. in full view. **Please call 606-5800** dispatch if you see someone checking car doors. **Call 891-4200 and report** if your car is broken into or gone through. TPD needs to track patterns of this crime and can increase surveillance in the area. He encouraged MPNA to re-establish our **Neighborhood Crime Watch**. It requires block captains and periodic meetings with the block neighbors and a TPD officer. Oakland Ave. has an active Watch Block with Linc Clay as block captain. He can help other streets get organized. Lighting is the most important security measure and now cameras are a good second. There are many improvements in lighting by motion detectors, and cameras (look for Ring and Nest brand cameras that can be linked to your doorbell). A good discussion of radar or infrared detectors ensued.

A project to remove invasive exotic plants from Myers Park was approved by City Parks & Rec. Dept. on February. MPNA had 2 work mornings and removed 100 yards of Ardesia berries and some plants along the creek. Now that the poison ivy is up volunteers could still work on vines and some others. Contact Cindy Cospers 224-5857 if you wish to plan a work day. At the 2/22/18 meeting neighbors got a look at plans underway to expand the trails in Myers Park and provided input and ideas to the City.

**Cascades Gardens:** Jake Kiker gave an impromptu presentation about some development plans that will affect the neighborhood. Jake, who lives on Oakland Ave., is the Atty. to a group of investors who are planning the develop 5.6 acres between Oakland Ave. and Harrison, across the street from where his family lives in the Trull Bldg. The current commercial buildings along Monroe St. will be demolished and replaced, and hopefully some tenants like the Bahn Thai Restaurant will return. Single family homes and apartments will be added, but not many, nor high-rises. Yards, trees, parking, sidewalks, drainage, traffic flow are all considered important, and being taken into account. The developer says he will live in one of the houses. The lower density and the garden approach were welcomed, along with the advance notice and open discussion. This project is slated for completion in two years. Jake warned that the artist renderings soon to appear are only conceptual.

Tallahassee Democrat articles have appeared in April, the latest on 4/29, giving more details on this new proposed gentrification in our neighborhood.

Scribed by Treas. Cindy Cospers