

Buckingham Lake Neighborhood Association (BLNA)
Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2016

The meeting was held at the Albany Elks Lodge #49, 25 South Allen Street, Albany, New York on September 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Dan Sleasman, President of the Buckingham Lake Neighborhood Association (BLNA), at 7:05 p.m.

D. Sleasman welcomed those in attendance and began the meeting with an introduction of Lauren Modzelewski, Community Relations Coordinator for the Department of General Services, Albany, New York.

Ms. Modzelewski discussed the following:

- The Department of General Services (DGS) covers issues relating to trash, recycling, parks and gardens in the City of Albany.
- 10/15/16 there will be a free paper shredding and book recycling in Washington Park.
- 10/20/16 is electronics recycling and household hazardous waste pick-up day. Items can be dropped off at the designated place on Rapp Road.
- Contact DGS if anyone puts trash out prior to 7:00 pm on the designated day of trash pick-up in the neighborhood.

The following questions were asked by members in attendance:

- When will water restrictions be lifted in the City of Albany? Answer: unknown at this time
- Traffic signs get beaten up every day. Who do we talk to about this? Answer: Traffic engineering (projects are assigned by the City Administrator)
- Can we look into ways to decrease or eliminate the geese population at the Buckingham Pond? Answer: yes, other cities have effectively done this and we need to look into strategies that work
- Cars are being parked in the road near the benches at Buckingham Pond. What can be done about this? Answer: Officer Brooks responded that we need to get no parking signs and that Bill Trudeau would be the point person to talk with for this issue.
- There is an unoccupied house on Milner Avenue that is overgrown and needs work. D. Sleasman put it on the website "See, Click, Fix" and there was a response that the City was aware of the house, but then the ticket was closed. D. Sleasman re-opened the ticket and asked why are tickets being closed on the website when the work isn't completed? Answer: Ms. Modzelewski said that she disburses issues to personnel to solve and that tickets should not be closed unless the work is done. Ms. Modzelewski asked that if anyone is aware that tickets are closed without the work being completed, the person should contact her directly. D. Sleasman said that there are a lot of vacant homes in the City and that he will also contact Daniel McCoy to discuss the issue.

- Are there new recycling bins? Answer: There are, but only certain streets were selected to test these for 8 months. Following the test, other neighborhoods will get them. Anyone needing a new recycling bin can come to DGS to get one.
- Can we contact DGS about uneven sidewalks that are a problem? Answer: yes

Ms. Modzelewski left the meeting following her presentation and the question and answer session.

D. Sleasman discussed the need for a new Vice President for the Buckingham Lake Neighborhood Association (BLNA) Board of Directors to fill the vacant seat and proposed Joseph Kavanaugh for the position. A vote of the members in attendance occurred and Mr. Kavanaugh was unanimously voted in as the new Vice President of the BLNA.

D. Sleasman announced that Joshua Farrell, a candidate running for Albany City Court Judge, had previously contacted the BLNA Board of Directors and asked to speak to the BLNA members at this meeting. The BLNA Board of Directors agreed to let Mr. Farrell speak at the meeting. D. Sleasman noted that some members objected to Mr. Farrell speaking to the BLNA membership as a candidate running for office without the BLNA reaching out to other candidates to offer equal time to also speak to the BLNA. Following a discussion with the members in attendance, it was decided to allow Joshua Farrell to address the group.

Following the discussion, Mr. Farrell spoke briefly to the members in attendance about his candidacy and experience and then left the BLNA meeting.

Felton McLaughlin, BLNA member, announced that the Buckingham Pond Conservancy would be hosting an Ice Cream Social Sunday, 9/11/16, and stated that the public at-large is welcome to attend. Ideas/funds for upgrading the playground are being sought by the Conservancy.

D. Sleasman asked for a report by the Treasurer. S. Jarzobek gave a brief report to the members.

D. Sleasman ended the meeting by asking those in attendance to sign up as a BLNA member if they have not already done so, and reminded everyone that the next meeting will be held Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Margie A. Sheehan, Secretary of the BLNA, 2016 term.