

**Buckingham Lake Neighborhood Association (BLNA)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 11, 2017**

The meeting was held at the Albany Elks Lodge #49, 25 South Allen Street, Albany, New York on March 9, 2017 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.

Joseph Kavanaugh, BLNA Vice President, welcomed those in attendance in the absence of President Dan Sleasman. J. Kavanaugh explained that there would be two presentations at the meeting, including one from the Albany City School District and one from the Albany Public Library, and that following the presentations Old Business would be discussed. J. Kavanaugh also announced that there would be another BLNA meeting on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the same location that will include a presentation by both the City of Albany and the Albany Police Department and he encouraged people to attend.

Scott Jarzombek, BLNA Treasurer, gave a Treasurer's report and stated that there is currently \$210.68 in the bank and that we are spending more than we are taking in. S. Jarzombek stated also that we need to collect 2017 dues from any current members who have not paid yet, and he explained that the dues will help us buy the lawn signs we want so that we can get more exposure for the Association. S. Jarzombek also announced that we could use more "block captains" to help us hand out flyers and that we are looking to fill two open Board of Director seats if anyone is interested in joining the Board of Directors.

Presentations

- I. Albany City School District – the presentation included a handout that contained the following information:
  1. Announced that they are seeking \$240.2 million in the new school budget and that the vote will be on May 16, 2017.
  2. The budget will support all current programming and will allow for new programming and staff.
  3. The budget will support equitable programs and services at the new Middle School to open at 50 North Lark Street.
  4. The budget will support the City of Albany's rapidly growing population of immigrant and refugee families.
  5. The budget will support a re-design of alternative education in all the grades.
  6. The budget will support an enhanced academic plan and continued investment in pre-kindergarten-Grade 2 literacy, social-emotional supports, college and career, safety and security and administrative support.
  7. The budget will support expansion of the community schools models.
  8. The budget will support maintenance of existing programs.

Questions from those in attendance were as follows:

1. Does the District own the Middle School building and how much will it cost to renovate? And what will the plan be for a permanent Middle School? Answer: We need to renovate the gym and the pool among some other areas. The cost is unknown at this time. We are also looking at other buildings to determine where to move permanently.
  2. Will you talk about the tax issue? Answer: There will be no increase for the District. Shifts in tax wealth will have an impact. Growing the tax base is in everyone's best interest. We won't know the numbers until around July and then we can determine the final tax rate.
- II. Albany Public Library – the presentation included a handout that contained the following information:
1. 2018 Library budget facts
  2. Library services that will be supported by the tax levy
  3. Library vote FAQ
  4. Candidates for Albany Public Library Board of Trustees
  5. Tax impact of proposed 2018 library budget
  6. Voting locations for May 16 Albany Public Library vote
  7. 2016 Library accomplishments
  8. New programs and services at the Library
  9. Library usage statistics
  10. Library community partners
  11. What patrons are saying about the Library
  12. Proposed 2018 Budget

### Old Business

Shannon LaVigne, BLNA Board of Directors Member, gave the following report on Old Business of the Association that is still open:

- Capital District Transportation Committee Traffic study update
- One ways how are they working.
- Lack of green arrow New Scotland/Buckingham - this is a dedicated turn lane with no dedicated green light.
- Speed Humps on Buckingham
- Crosswalks on Buckingham at Holmesdale & Davis (none exist now)
- Don't block the box signs on Buckingham at Colonial and Milner.
- Stop sign and speed enforcement update.
- Speed sign data on Buckingham - do we have data on 35+ MPH speeders that was requested.
- New Scotland Ave between S Manning Buckingham pavement markings
- Reduce speed limit on neighborhood streets to 25 MPH

Following her report, S. LaVigne took questions from the floor, which included the following:

1. One attendee stated that he is not in favor of the idea of speed humps.
2. 4 attendees stated that they were against the change to one-way streets on Tampa and Friebel. One of these attendees stated that he asked everyone on Tampa and they all said they did not want the one-way change. The Board stated that at the prior BLNA meeting there were close to 15 residents of Tampa in attendance at the meeting who stated that they wanted it.
3. One attendee stated that if we opened up Buckingham Drive to two-way traffic that would solve the traffic problem.
4. One member stated that opening up Buckingham Drive to two-way traffic would not solve the problem, due to the fact that the traffic has grown tremendously in past years and that the neighborhood streets were never meant for the volume of traffic we now have.
5. It was stated by several attendees that we have to be careful no matter what solutions we come up with, because doing something in one area has been proven to cause problems in other areas.
6. Two attendees stated that they hate the one ways because they have to go very far out of their way to get back to their homes.
7. One attendee recommended we FOIL the data that we are looking for from the Transportation Committee because they will need to give it to us. The same attendee also recommended that we have someone from the two hospitals come to a BLNA meeting to listen to our concerns and help us solve the traffic issues.

Following the questions and discussion, J. Kavanaugh recommended that those who are interested in these issues attend the next BLNA meeting on June 8, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Margie A. Sheehan, Secretary of the BLNA, 2016-2017 term.