

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Garden City Estates
Property Owners' Association
Held on March 13, 2013 at Stratford School**

The monthly meeting of the Garden City Estates Property Owners' Association was held at Stratford School on March 13, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. President Slattery opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and reports from Committees were then presented.

Recreational Committee

Pat Manley of the Recreational Committee advised that the budget for the next year is being prepared. There is a proposal to raise fees for outside organizations who use Garden City recreational facilities. There will be an attempt to reduce expenses as well as to increase revenues in order to keep a balanced budget. One of the cuts under consideration is reducing park attendants from September through June. Trustees Daughney and Demaro reported that when outside groups use the athletic fields, most of these events are on breakeven basis since the Village must pay for cleanup, *etc.* Since most of the outside events are for philanthropic purposes, such as the Jay Gallagher Tournament, the Village looks to cover its costs but not to generate a profit from these activities. Use of the athletic fields could generate more revenue if outside organizations were permitted to rent them more frequently. However, in order to preserve the fields, they need to be not overused.

The focus groups on recreational needs for senior citizens recently met. There will be some feedback from that program and a survey will be sent out to further assess the needs of residents. Trustee Daughney also indicated that the Trustees had asked architects reviewing plans for the Senior Center to estimate the cost of knocking down the existing building and starting anew rather than rebuilding.

Library Committee

Randy Colahan reported on the Library Committee. Budget discussions are under way. The Library Committee has retained an outside attorney, William Cohen, who specializes in library matters for an annual retainer of \$4,500 per year. This was necessitated because Village counsel was not always able to advise the library because of potential conflicts of interest. Most of the increases in the library budget are due to state mandated payments for increases in insurance and pensions. Apart from these increases, the library budget has actually been flat over the last several years. The library has relied more on the services of full time rather than part time employees. While the number of full time employees at the library has been reduced from 24 to 21 over the past years, the number of part time employees has been even more substantially reduced. Payments to part time employees went from \$364,000 in 2007 down to \$187,000 this year. 90% of the library

funding comes from Village contributions. The library is investigating the possibility of automatic checkout services which may result in a further reduction of personnel.

Traffic Enforcement

A number of residents from Euston Road spoke about the new traffic signs which had been put up on the block without notice to many residents on the block. The no parking signs were put up after a petition was received from six residents on the block of Euston Road between Merillon Avenue and Somerset. However, many other residents on the block were not polled and they have discovered that they are no longer able to park in front of their own homes. This is especially problematic since several of the homes on that block have single lane driveways. Village residents Peter DeMayo and Bill Nugent discussed the issue and Trustee Daughney promised that the matter would be looked into.

Zoning

Betsy Andromidas reported on the recent developments at 168 Euston Road where residents, believed to be Adelphi students, have been disregarding Village regulations concerning snow removal. This is an ongoing problem which is only going to grow worse as realtors are looking to buy older homes and sell them to families who are enrolling their children in a special program for foreign students at Adelphi University. It was believed by some that the presence of such student "rooming houses" is detrimental to the quality of life in the Village, in addition to being in violation of Village regulations.

School Board

Colleen Foley, the President of our School Board, spoke about budget preparations for the year. While every effort has been made to reduce expenses and to negotiate favorable contracts with teachers, Ms. Foley pointed out that people who buy homes in Garden City to raise their children here have an expectation of a certain level of educational services.

Trustees Report

Trustees DeMaro reported that the Village had recently laid off six firemen after a survey conducted that the Village was overstaffed with the number of paid firemen. One Lieutenant had been demoted to a fireman. The Citizens Budget Review Committee has looked at the proposed Village budget and has come up with an extensive list of recommendations to be considered by the Village Trustees in attempting to reduce expenses. Trustee Brian Daughney pointed out the Village has no choice to pay increase pension contribution requirements for Village employees. The Village simply receives a bill from the State which must be paid. The past few bad years in the stock market have driven up the cost of state pension plans. The Village was assessed a 15.5% increase for pension benefits for municipal workers and an 18.8% increase for uniform services personnel during the last year. These are not costs which can be avoided by the Village.

Both Trustees Daughney and DeMaro pointed out that there are difficult decisions that are being made by Village Trustees concerning where to cut expenses. Trustee DeMaro felt strongly that certain items could not be deferred such as the paving of streets and the repair of sidewalks. Additionally, even after reimbursement is expected to be received from Federal and State Government authorities for clean up expenses after Hurricane Sandy, the net cost to the Village will still likely be in the area of \$700,000.

Nominating Committee

Manny Velez, Chairman of the Nominating Committee indicated that there are still looking for applications for people interested in serving on the Nominating Committee.

Other Matters

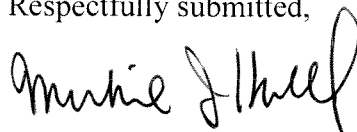
President Slattery also announced that the Garden City Estates Property Owners' Association will be awarding two \$500.00 scholarships this year to deserving high school seniors. A copy of the application will be posted on the website and all high school seniors, regardless of whether they attend Garden City High School or a parochial school, are invited to apply for these scholarships. Personnel from the Garden City High School Guidance Department will make the choice as to the winners of these scholarships.

Trustee Daughney pointed out that there are openings for interested residents to serve on the Recreational and Cultural Affairs Committee, the Planning Commission, the Architectural Design Commission, the Environmental Commission and the Library Committee. Anyone who is interested in serving on these Committees should feel free to contact Trustee Daughney or any Officer of the Estates Property Owners' Association.

The meeting concluded at 9:45 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Garden City Estates Property Owners Association will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. at the Stratford School.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Holland
Secretary