

**Freemason Street Area Association
General Membership Meeting
May 20, 2015**

The May 20, 2015, FSAA general membership meeting was called to order by President Kavanaugh at approximately 7:00 p.m. He thanked Freemason Inn innkeeper Eric Speer and owner Kathy Falkner for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments, and asked first time attendees to introduce themselves.

Lt. Posch and **Officer Daley** were introduced and asked to give crime statistics for the neighborhood. They stated that overall, statistics are down. An April rape report sounded more like a “groping.” There was a robbery on Granby Street and several commercial burglaries, mostly in the downtown area. Larcenies from vehicles are down. They emphasized the need for communication and that residents need to call in suspicious-looking persons. A recent assault on College Place was captured on video and the Police have been able to identify some of those involved. It was noted that young children have been soliciting for money for their “teams” and that to do so requires a permit. The best response is to ask to see the permit.

Speakers

President Kavanaugh introduced **Andria McClellan** representing *Better Together Norfolk*, which is a grassroots effort to elect an at-large or hybrid School Board. Mrs. McClellan reviewed the current appointment system which is at large and noted that City Council determined that elections would be ward-based beginning in 2016. Better Together would like Council to reverse that decision. A petition drive, requiring 1,600 signatures, is going on now, otherwise, a referendum would need to take place. Councilman Smiegle has offered a proposal and there also is a hybrid option to the ward approach. Plans are being made to meet with the NAACP and other like-minded groups to speak with one voice. President Kavanaugh said that he was hesitant at first to broach this subject but thinks there needs to be a good resolution to the issue.

President Kavanaugh then introduced **Lynn Berg** of Prime Plus. Ms. Berg reviewed the background and services offered by Prime Plus along with the wide range of programs and classes offered to those 50 years of age and older. Ms. Berg said that they are funded through grants, fund raising, and fees for services; however, they need community support in order to offer quality programs and encouraged those present to learn more by going to www.primeplus.org. Ms. Berg also invited those present to attend the June 11, 2015, reception for Senior ArtFest which will be held at PrimePlus on Newport Avenue.

Nominating Committee Report

Ms. Gustavson gave the report of the Nominating Committee for the FSAA Board of Directors as follows:

Ginger Van de Water, Leslie Friedman, Gerry Roth, and Jennifer Cordovana. The slate was approved as presented.

Other

President Kavanaugh announced that there is a vacancy for newsletter editor and asked for a volunteer; however, if no one volunteers, he will appoint an editor for the coming year. He also noted that Kim has returned to the area for parking violations. He invited all to attend the dedication of the Medal of Honor Trail on Monday, May 25, 2015, at Wisconsin Square.

President Kavanaugh reported that there are 87 individual members, 13 businesses, and 8 condos who have subscribed to FSAA membership. The treasury has \$2,884.22 in the bank.

Historic District Committee

Gerry Roth said there is nothing to report.

Neighborhood Clean Up

Sarah Whiting said that everything is on track.

Pagoda Events

Madeline Sly mentioned the Memorial Day picnic scheduled for Sunday, May 24, 2015, and said that it should be a fun time. She encouraged people to get their reservations in as soon as possible. Mrs. Sly also mentioned the Dragon Boat races which will be held in September. A welcome party will be held at the Pagoda on September 25. Mike Evans lauded the Pagoda manager Julie Hudgins and said that the neighborhood needs to get out and support her.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Greta Gustavson, Acting Secretary