

ACoN Minutes

January 23, 2018

6:30 p.m., Municipal Bldg., Room 204

Present:

Gary Yount, President	Bill Moore	Sgt. George Gymer
Beth Copenhaver, Secretary	Bill Busser	
Ann Dicks, V-President	John Winfield	
Diane Saunders, Treasurer	Jesse Roach	
Glen Gallman	Betty Gyles	
Michele O'Shaughnessy	Sam Erb	
Betty Myers	Rocky Napier	
Roger Brock	Alex Chew	

President Gary Yount opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, room 204. He asked everyone to introduce himself/herself.

President Yount introduced Sgt. Gymer from ADPS. Sgt. Gymer talked about the new "Aiken Stat" which gives up-to-date information regarding crime in the City of Aiken. He showed how the public may access this information on the cityofaikensc.gov website. (Click on "Residents", "Crime & Courts", "Crime Data", and then use the search options of dates and particular neighborhoods.) Sgt. Gymer said that a big concern currently is that cars are being left unlocked and then items are stolen.

President Yount asked Beth Copenhaver to relay Tim Coakley's offer from the City of Aiken. Even though Mr. Coakley was ill, he wanted neighborhood representatives to know that, with 24 hours' notice, his department can supply orange trash bags and vests, as well as grabbers, and even a dumpster for neighborhood clean-up events. Beth was asked if a city-wide clean-up event (one or two weekends in February or March, perhaps) could be arranged. Beth will relay the request to Mr. Coakley.

During the Community Roundtable, representatives gave updates on their neighborhood events.

President Yount asked that the November minutes be read. A motion and second were made and the minutes were approved.

President Yount asked Diane Saunders to give information about the treasurer's report. Currently, the ACoN balance is \$364.52. Diane also announced that the south side Walmart in Aiken has just awarded ACoN a \$1,000 grant. Diane is commended for applying for this grant which is to be used for community projects.

President Yount said that a subcommittee of the officers, Jesse Roach, and Michael Yount met on January 18, 2018, to discuss options for an ACoN website. President Yount asked Jesse to give information about the new ACoN website. Jesse said that, after reviewing other cities' neighborhood websites, as well as comparing benefits and costs of hosts (such as WIX, Weebly, SquareSpace, Godaddy, etc.), we decided to host our site on 1&1 and use WordPress for development. Our new web address is aikenneighborhoods.org. Jesse said that he will be glad to add photos of neighborhood entrances, etc., to our website if members will send him photos in jpg and documents/certificates, etc., in pdf (preferably).

President Yount asked Michele O'Shaughnessy to update us on fundraising. Michele has set up our first fundraising event at Chipotle (1941 Whiskey Road) on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018, from 4-8 p.m. 50% of the proceeds during those hours will be given to ACoN. Also note that if you order from AmazonSmile online, you can specify that .5% of your purchase will be donated to your choice of non-profit. We encourage you and your neighbors/family/friends to remember to mark "Aiken Council of Neighborhoods" as your choice of non-profit for AmazonSmile! Michele will give us more on other fundraisers in the future.

President Yount asked Beth Copenhaver to update everyone regarding where we are on the nuisance property and the rental properties ordinances. Beth reviewed the ACoN officers' Dec. 20th meeting with city staff, a meeting in January with one realtor who does not support the rental units ordinance, as well as the Aiken County Board of Realtors email and letter regarding the rental properties ordinance. After much discussion, Mr. Yount said that he will send ACoN representatives links to the Rock Hill City Council's sessions regarding their ordinances. He said that the ordinances will come to the City Council in early March for a second reading.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. **The second meeting of 2018 will be Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in room 204.**