**Archdale Civic Association General Meeting**

Minutes

2024.08.15

**Opening**

The Archdale Civic Association General Meeting was called to order at 7pm at North Charleston Fire Department Station 8 by Marty Besancon.

**Present**

From the sign-in sheets

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes from 5-16-2024 General Minutes. Board Member Ellis Axson was first to bring motion 2nd by Dale Linker.  Motion Passed by Membership voting yes to approve Minutes. No Nays.

**Treasurer’s Report**

**1.**Treasurers Report Rhonda Sweatman- CPA Highland Rudy and Garbett CPA LLC our Association paid them $1500.00 in June 2021 for 2014, 2015,2016,2017, and 2018 filings. August 11,2024, we gave them another $400.00 that brought us up to date for 2019 and 2020 that was August 2022.

Nothing paid for 2023 and for 2024 we paid $900.00 that brought up to 2022. Rhonda called IRS could not find 2021 2022 taxes looking for tracking number with the CPA. The IRS took a long time to find it. We do get a copy of the taxes.  Currently asking CPA about 2023 taxes they CPA

kept telling us we need extensions. We do not want as an Association to keep paying for extensions. Our CPA said we automatically have extensions which cost us extra we told them no. They do not answer our questions our phone calls texts etc.  We do not need to use them anymore. Once we get done with 2023, we need to get rid of them. We contacted them June 28, 2024, goes straight to voice mail will not answer any questions. Try to find a CPA  in 2025. Reassessment paperwork

everyone should have gotten it by now. President going to open reassessment mail on the Archdale  two properties which we pay taxes for.  CPA said our nonprofit organization status needs to be updated . Lawyer says it needs to be updated. Lots of changes since ACA started in 1980. Regulations need to updated. Looking at Profits and Losses.  Please see rest of Treasurers Report. We have had extra donated $2300.00 dollars per treasurer.

**Old Business**

**1.** Administrative/Neighborhood Update

**a.** Website Business & Services listing update.  Angelika has taken over the responsibilities of Web Master from Krista McKracken.  We thank Krista for her service and Angelika for taking on this role.  Update on the web site per Vice President. Angelika:  Had a 1.5-hour meeting with Krista.  Need to add a link to the business listings when we have them. Having a hard time getting anything on the sight due to the Webmaster.  $50.00 for a member of the Association to have business listed on website, $100.00 for nonmembers of the Association. The form to fill out the business to be on the website will be up soon.

**b.** Low Maintenance Landscape Plan Development 1st Round Update: The entrances of the neighborhoods have been the first areas of focus as these areas are small, affordable to landscape, and have high visibility because they are the entryway into the neighborhoods.  The Oaks of Archdale entrance (#16, #17) is the first entrance to be undertaken.   The areas have been cleared of weeds and are ready for plants.  A neighbor, Sharon Klaus, has offered her garden hose for water, in addition to some accent plants and fertilizer if we are interested.   Cost of plants for the  two islands will be around $300.00.  Asiatic Jasmine will be the ground cover plant.  Encore Azaleas  will be planted around the Oaks of Archdale sign.  The goal is to take care of small spaces in the neighborhoods first. A numbered map of all common areas along with photos of all common areas was presented during the meeting for review.  A comment on the berms was asked.  Dorchester County owns the berms.  We spent over $7,000.00 worth of taking red tip trees down on the berms because they were dying.  We need to replace Archdale sign eventually.

**c.** Develop plans for website community calendar for meetings, special events.  Anjelika is consistently adding and updating information to our website.

**d.** Dorchester County Mowing and Walking Path Update.  Marty emailed our County Councilwoman, Rita May Ranck, for an update.  Rita reported that she has spoken to a Mr. Wood,  regarding the walking path and confirmed the county is moving forward on this concept.  She did not indicate what job Mr. Woods does for the county.  Rita admitted that Mr. Wood also would be the contact to arrange for the grass cutting and that she has not spoken to him about that.  She indicated it may be too late to get that scheduled this year.  Marty checked the budget calendar for Dorchester County and found out it runs from July-June.  That would indicate the budget submission process is probably in the late winter.  We will stay in contact with our Councilwoman and submit a request in writing if needed for next year. Rita May was invited to attend our General meeting in August 14, 2024, she declined as she will be out of town.  We will invite her to come at another time.

**2.** Volunteer and Quarterly Events Announcements

**a.**  Welcome to Summer! Neighborhood Fun Day, Sat. June 8th, 9am-12 Debrief - This event of games, snacks, and hand crafts, book swap, and other activities was well received with about 50-60 people in attendance.  This was the first time this type of community event was done by the ACA in many years.  The 9:30 start time worked well and allowed of time for set up.  Marty proposed ending the event at noon.  Ideas for next year included adding a food truck or cook out, continue the book swap, add a plant swap, and add a produce swap. Everyone enjoyed the donated homemade cookies.

**b.** Community Yard Sale, Sat. Sept. 14th, 8am-1pm Community  Yard Sale: Last year we raised $220 in funds to help Low Maintenance plants for the common areas in the neighborhoods. This year’s proceeds will go to the same project. Should not have to spend as much money as we did last year as all sign supplies were purchased last year and are reusable.

Not as much work this year as all forms, procedures and promo signs were developed last year.  We just need some volunteers.  Paper copy of registration forms and volunteer signup sheets were available for pickup.

**b.** Membership Drive.  Cindy Varnado reported the board is looking to make some updates to payment methods for next year and discussed adding the Venmo, a direct bank deposit payment method.  Cindy has investigated the option and reported that it looks favorable.  Even though we use the PO Box for all our mail, venom also needs a physical address and Cindy suggested we use Archdale Hall.  Board members responded that Archdale Hall would be good to use for other businesses that require a physical address as well.

**c.** Community Festive Food Truck, Thurs. Dec. 12th, 6-8pm.  We will need to check with Deneen on the Food Truck schedule as she has indicated she stepping down from organizing this at the end of the season.  We will need to make other plans if the Food Truck is not scheduled in December.  Angelika will contact Deneen. Marty reported that Dorchester County does not permit road closures, therefore, the event needs to be moved. Lee recommended that the event be moved to Archdale Hall.  An idea for this year is to have smores or marsh mellows over a campfire at Archdale Plantation.

**New Business**

**1.** Overview of the Little Free Library, Volunteer Coordinator, Jacklyn Yuhanick.  Speaker Jacquelyn  coordinated the book swap at the Welcome Summer event. Littlefreelibrary.org map where all the different ones are located.  She Talked to President Marty and the Land Trust approved the library  to be located at Archdale Hall.  Her husband will donate $250.00 to purchase the library kit. Jacquelyn would be in charge of it replacing old books and putting in new books. Motion to Approve Library 1st by Dale Linker second by Robert Board member.  All approved, no nays

**2.** Overview of electronic Archdale Newsletter, Volunteer Coordinator, Toni Stephens, Board Member Brett Stevens wife Toni has shown interest in an Electronic Newsletter.  We had one and it fell by the wayside if someone is willing to do it, it would help us stay in touch and remind people of things going on in the neighborhood on a quarterly update.

**3.** Nomination to fill any ACA Board Vacancy Board Member Nominations -  We had two members recently added to fill vacancies.  The board is full at this time but can always use volunteers to assist the board. There is always much to do.

**4.** Landscape Contract for 2025 FRP for Lawn Care: Ted Hucks reported that the board will be developing an RFP (Request for Proposals) from lawn care contractors for Landscape next year 2025. A question was asked on when the current company cuts the grass. Most of the time 1st Saturday of the month and then changed to 2nd Saturday of the month.  We have one landscaper who lives in Archdale that has expressed an interest in submitting a bid. Between the grass cutting and low maintenance landscaping, we are trying to beautify the whole neighborhood a little at a time.

**Public Comments**

Code Enforcement updates and discussion.  Our community has been having problems with commercial vehicles illegally parking in the neighborhood.  Dorchester County has an ordinance in place that prohibits commercial vehicles parking in residential neighborhoods.  We have been given conflicting information on how to report the violation on weekends and after Dorchester County offices close.  Should the police be called?  We are going try to get informationin writing about what the community can do with this problem.  Marty will attempt to get written clarification from Dorchester officials on this topic and invited anyone who wants to help to contact her.

A new neighbor in Archdale introduced himself.  He was informed of where to find information on   what is going on with the ACA and the neighborhood.  He was invited to get involved along with more neighbors to help Archdale.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm by Marty Besancon. The next general meeting will be at 7:00pm on General Meeting Thurs., 11/14/2024, in the meeting room at NCFD Station 8.

Joe Friend

Secretary

Archdale Civic Association