**Archdale Civic Association General Meeting**

Minutes

2024.11.14

**Opening**

The Archdale Civic Association General Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm at North Charleston Fire Department Station 8 by Marty Besancon.

**Present**

From the sign-in sheets

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes from 8-15-2024 General Minutes. Board Member Ellis Axson was first to bring motion 2nd by Ted Hucks.  Motion Passed by Membership voting yes to approve Minutes. No Nays.

**Treasurer’s Report**

**1.** Treasurers Report: We started 2024 with $518.59. We moved $2000.00 from savings until collections started. With any returns to companies and membership collections and donations ACA inc. took in $22,292.59. Expenses for 1-1-2024 to Oct 31- 2024 were $15,949.30. This leaves ACA inc. with $6,343.29 to last the next two months for expenses for 2024 if no more collections or donations arrive.  We have approximately 48% in membership.

**2.** The accounting firm we paid to file our taxes for 2021, 2022, and  2023 submitted the short form instead of the long form.  The IRS sent them back to be refiled on the long form.  The accounting firm is making the correction and will refile the taxes at no additional charge.  We have had problems with this firm and will be switching to a new accounting firm to file the 2024 taxes.  We will seek to find a firm that works with nonprofit organizations.

**Old Business**

**1.** Administrative/Neighborhood Update

**a.** Website Business & Services listing update.  Vice President Angelika has set up the Business Listing on our web site.  She is working with a business owner in Archdale to do a test run on it. When it is ready we will let community know.  Participants will submit the website form and pay $50 for a member of the Association, $100 for nonmembers of the Association to have their business to listed on website.

**b.** Low Maintenance Landscape Plan Update: The low maintenance landscape plans were put on hold until the street sign replacements were completed last year.  We started with the goal of improving the small common areas in the neighborhoods first, as discussed during prior General Meetings. Last May we did the first landscape project in the  Oaks of Archdale neighborhood; the two entry islands were done. We planted Asiatic Jasmine groundcover and Encore Azaleas. The plants are starting to take off. We spent $300.   Neighbors took up a collection and volunteers painted the sign neighborhood entry sign.  It looks new and has a lot of life left in it. Two other areas in the Oaks of Archdale were cleaned up by volunteers.  We have stopped planting in the winter and will pick it up in the spring. Someone in neighborhood has said they will give us some good mulch.  We let neighbors indicate their interest in the mulch for their neighborhood and work one area at a time with the mulch as neighbors indicate. Any other questions on this subject. None were asked.

**c.** Dorchester County Mowing, Walking Path and Other Updates.  Dorchester County Councilwoman Rita May Ranck was in attendance to give updates on the items she has been working on followed by a questions and answers on other topics.  She has been our point of contact with the County Administrator, Mr. Ward, to get the county lined up to share in the cost of mowing the Archdale Boulevard median.  During a meeting with Councilwoman Rita May Ranck and Marty Besancon,  the County Administrator stated the county would cut the median three times per year when a review of the Dorchester property tax maps listed the county as the owner.  Ms**.** Ranck reported thatMr. Ward has withdrawn the offer to cut the grass after he reviewed a copy of the document where the subdivision developer turned over the Archdale roads to the Dorchester County only listed the sign and manhole in the median.  Ms. Ranck said she tried several approaches to Mr. Ward and was not successful.  Rita May said the Director of Capital Improvements for Dorchester County told her the walking path or sidewalk will be put in place in the Archdale Boulevard median as part of a safe streets program**,** which would cut down of lawn care in the median.  She gave some information on the widening of Dorchester Road to be completed in the next five years.  She told everyone Government takes a whole lot longer to get things done.  The Dorchester Road widening will be from Dorchester Road at the County line to Orangeburg Road. Charleston County will do the portions in their county. She reported that Bakers Landing is in discussions with North Charleston to Annex into the city, she told us the city will provide additional services but they will be paying North Charleston taxes and Dorchester County taxes because they are in Dorchester County. If they annex, they do not have to change schools. A discussion followed on the level of service between the county and city in regards to trash and debris pick up, better code enforcement for repeat problem properties and commercial trucks violating the restriction of parking in residential neighborhoods. The city does code sweeps through neighborhoods whereas the county depends on residents to report violations to the county.  Ellis stated that he has tried to get a crime report from the county like the city provides and has never gotten a call back.  A question was asked if the restriction of Commercial Truck Parking in residential neighborhoods was a state law.  She was also asked what does County do to a repeat offenders of county codes? She told us she would look into this. Mrs. Rank was thanked for her work on behalf of her Archdale constituents and for Mr. and Mrs. Rank for coming to our meeting tonight.
**d.** ACA Landscape Request for Proposals (RFP) 2025:  The RFP has been updated and is available for contractors to submit bids through November 25th, 2024. A copy of the RFP was presented for members to review. The areas include the Archdale Boulevard median, berms and four common areas of grass in neighborhoods. We kept the same number of 12 cuts per year and shifted from monthly to twice a month from April through September.  We included the option of considering additional services if funding permits.  We also included the option of considering extended contracts.  We have
had quite a few inquire about it. Information is posted on the reader board and the RFP packet is emailed as requested.  An update on the accepted bid will be given at the next meeting.  Any questions or comments? None.

**2.** Volunteer and Quarterly Events Announcements

**a.**  Quarterly Event Community Yard Sale, Sat. Sept. 14th, 8am-1pm Community  Yard Sale Debrief: This year’s Community Yard Sale had 12 homes participate. It is an annual fundraiser for low maintenance landscape in neighborhood common areas.  We took in $180 dollars including $40 in donations for landscaping. We have raised a total of $400 in two years and have had good feedback on the forms, maps, publicity and sales.
**b.** Quarterly EventCommunity Festive Food Truck, Thurs. Dec. 12th, 5-8pm. Since Dorchester County does not permit road closures, the decision was made at our last General Meeting to move events to Archdale Hall.  Angelika contacted Deneen to coordinate the food truck. We will serve hot coco and cider again this year and will also have craft activities for kids.  A new addition to this event will be the provision of all the fixings to make smores or toasted marshmallows over a portable fire pit.  Ted requested members to join in a cleanup around  Archdale Hall prior to the event and remove limbs fallen from trees.  Members were asked contact Ted to help.  Members were also asked to bring chairs and/or camp lights if possible.

**c.**  Little Library – Opening Dec. 12th, Volunteer Coordinator, Jacklyn Yuhanick.  The library was approved at our last General Meeting and the installation at Archdale Hall and was approved by the Land Trust prior to the presentation at the General Meeting.   Jacqeline plans to have a Grand opening and her husband will play Guitar on December 12, 2024 at quarterly event. She will call 811 to check utilities prior to the installation.  Robert said he would dig and install the post for the library.

**New Business**

**1.** 2025 Annual Budget presented for approval

Members were given copies of the 2025 Budget Worksheet which was developed by the ACA board’s review of 2024 expenses and income. Rhonda read the projected income and expense for each item on the worksheet. The projected income and expenses for 2025 are similar to 2024. Prior to the budget vote, Marty gave background information.  In 2024,  the budget reflected a reduction on the number of common areas being cut and the number of cuts in order to keep the ACA from going over budget.   That reduction should result in the ACA having funds left over at the end of 2024.  After some discussion, board members all agreed to make the recommendation at the Nov. General Meeting to put all the surplus funds at the end of 2024 back into the 2025 budget to address neighborhood maintenance and improvements (to be determined) that have lacked funding in the past.  This includes putting some funds aside in the savings account as seed money each year to replace the Archdale entry sign.  A motion to approve the Budget was made by Ellis, 2nd by  Cindy. Motion Passed by Membership voting yes to approve the 2025 Budget. No Nays.   Following the budget approval, Marty gave an update on the remaining funds from the Archdale Street Sign sales fundraiser.  A total of  $300 was spent on picnic tables at Archdale Hall, leaving $900 in savings.  Since the donations came from sales across the subdivision, the funds need to benefit the subdivision.  The board unanimously decided to allocate the $900 as seed money towards replacing the Archdale entry sign.

**2**.  Presentation proposed of web 3D Archdale Hall.  Mr. Steven Henneberry was introduced.  He contacted the board recently requesting time to do a 5 -10 minutes presentation at the  November General Meeting.  Mr. Henneberry proceeded to give a presentation on a unique method of preserving the Archdale Hall site and showcasing  images of the neighborhood in a 3-d format on the Archdale Website.  Steven talked about 3-d photography, 3d scanning.  He presented a laptop showcasing a 3-d scan of Archdale Hall.  ACA members approved of the concept and our web master, Angelica Dorsch-Buckner, is willing to work with Steven on posting the images when he is ready.  ACA members mentioned other potential sites outside of Archdale that Stephen may want to consider.

**3.** 2025 ACA General Meetings will be held at NCFD Station 8 on the third Thursday of the

    following months: 2/20, 5/15, 8/21, 11/20.

**Elections**

1. The ACA slate of 2025 candidates:

          Marty Besancon – Current Board Member

          Angelika Dorsch-Buckner – Current Board Member

          Rhonda Sweatman – Current Board Member

          Joe Friend – Current Board Member

          Ted Hucks – Current Board Member

          Cindy Varnado – Current Board Member

          Brett Stephens – Current Board Member

          Robert Baumgartner – Current Board Member

Motion for the Approval  Board of Officers, 1st Steven, 2nd Cody. Motion Passed by Membership voting yes to approve. No Nays.   Ellis Axson has decided to rotate off the board at the end of 2024.  He has offered to continue assisting as an ACA member.  He was thanked for his past and continued service to the board and Archdale community.  We will post the board vacancy opening in the near future.  Interested candidates may contact Angelika or Marty.  We need board members or volunteers to help with administrative tasks, beautification, quarterly events, membership development and other.

**Public Comments**

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm by Marty Besancon. The next General Meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Thurs., 2/20/2025, in the meeting room at NCFD Station 8.

Joe Friend

Secretary