

## **Island Home Park Neighborhood Association**

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Home of Matt Park

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by President Matthew Park.

### **Present:**

**Officers:** President-Matt Park, Vice President-Nancy Campbell, Secretary-Jeanne Fair;  
Treasurer-Mary Wiginton.

**Board Members:** Jeannette Bouchard, Katie Graham, Lisa Horn, Robyn McAdoo, Stewart Smith,  
Windsor Wall, Tommy Smith – City Council.

**Unable to attend:** Bill Hahnemann, Katie Hannah, Ally Ketron.

### **Minutes – Jeanne Fair**

January minutes were distributed.

Motion to Approve the Minutes – LH/WW - Approved

### **Treasurer's Report –Mary Wiginton**

Mary gave out a copy of the Treasurer's Report.

Discussion:

A motion was made to raise the money allocation for the Porch Hops to \$200/household which means \$1200 this year.

LH/MP Passed.

Treasurer's Report – Motion to approve the report – LH/NC. Passed

### **Membership Report – Windsor Wall and Katie Graham**

They showed the Membership Form draft and asked for suggestions.

They will have a VENMO account set-up for dues. They will work with Mary so she understands how the money is transferred and how she knows about donations sent in addition to the dues.

They will have incentives for early payment: Stanleys, Angry Dumplin, South Coast Pizza and Sevier Avenue Burger Company.

Membership forms should be distributed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April. All the packets will be on Mary's front porch in the bin.

They will put membership information on the website as well.

### **Airport Committee – Matt Park**

This committee is still looking for a chairperson. Lisa and Mary will ask Bryan Malone if he is interested.

**Pillars:** Solar Lights are finally available for the new pillars. They are the 36" size that will match the ones on the front pillars. Matt will try to order one to see if we like it.

### **Social Committee**

Marathon – Natasha is the Neighborhood Captain and could still use some volunteers for the water station. Don't forget to be outside to cheer on the runners.

Egg Hunt – Christie Kennedy is the Chairperson for this event and is asking for people to volunteer to hide the eggs the morning of the event.

Porch Hops – Lisa Horn is the Chairperson for these events and has all of them scheduled. The change to \$200/household will certainly help the hosts and hopefully encourage more people to volunteer for the next round.

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>** will be the first Porch Hop will be hosted by Krista & Michael Jordon's - 2134 Island Home Boulevard from 6pm –9pm.

**June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Porch Hop hosted by Katie & Po Hannah – 2218 Fisher Place

**July 25<sup>th</sup>** – Porch Hop hosted by Megan & Mike Martin – 2247 Maplewood Drive – **Family Friendly.**

**August 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Porch Hop hosted by Annabel & Don Henley – 2009 Willis Place

**September 12<sup>th</sup>** –The final Porch Hop hosted by Kathy & Joey Brown – 2129 Spence Place

## **SKNBC – Lisa Horn**

There are no real updates. SKNBC still wants to hold an Open House at some point.

They also want to have another Knoxville SOUP dinner.

Keep Knoxville Beautiful will be having their annual South Knoxville clean-up.

*The ninth annual South Knoxville Community Cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 9am-12pm. The event base will be at Mary Vestal Park, located at 522 Maryville Pike, Knoxville, TN 37920.*

Vestival will be held at the United Methodist Church this year and not at Candora Marble on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. The location change is due to the expansion of the event.

Donated Toys – SKNBC is collecting new or gently used stuffed animals or toys for the children in Montgomery Village. Let Lisa know if you want to donate.

Food Pantry – SKNBC needs volunteers for their Food Pantry.

**IHPNA Small Grants** – There was discussion about how to spend some of the money in our account that would be beneficial to the neighborhood. One suggestion was to replace the steps down to the park from Spence Place. This may be something the city would be willing to take on. Another suggestion was for small grants to neighbors who have a great idea to help Island Home Park residents.

A motion was made to approve up to \$2000 for one grant each year that is approved by the board. SS/MW. Passed. Matt will work on some type of application and present it to the board for approval.

## **Tommy Smith – City Council**

**Knoxville City Police Department** has now added horses to their department. Tommy suggested we try to get them to come to the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade in IHP.

**Augusta Quarry** will open in May with bathrooms, a swimming area and a picnic area. The campground is already open.

**Greenway** - The city approved money to complete the “missing link” of the Greenway under the RR tracks to City View by 2027. Everything being built now must have a Greenway connection.

**Giffin School Revitalization** - The Knoxville City Council unanimously approved a resolution to spend up to [\\$1,059,400 to subsidize 36 units](#) of affordable housing in what is currently the historic Giffin Elementary School.

The decision is the latest step in what some leaders and neighbors say is a plan to salvage the school by developing 77 units of affordable housing inside and next to the school. The city's commitment adds to state and federal sources that will provide a range of unit types for at least 30 years.

Benjamin Case and David Case, the developers, said they're excited to continue working with Knoxville's neighbors and leaders. Discussions have been ongoing for about four years. Despite time constraints and multiple funding sources, David said the project is by the South Haven community, for the South Haven community.

"We had to cut down the number of units, listening to the neighborhood; we had increased the number of parking spots, listening to the neighborhood; we preserved more trees, listening to the neighborhood," David said.

The project will house people who make up as little as 30% of the area median income, up to 80% of the area median income.

**Montgomery Village** – The city has approved \$100,000 to build a new playground in Montgomery Village. The city hopes the county will match the funds.

Council members emphasized the need for immediate improvements, particularly the installation of playgrounds in Montgomery Village, which was identified as a priority during community canvassing. Residents expressed a strong desire for safe recreational spaces for children.

**Gay Street Bridge** – The repairs will begin soon to get it ready to open to pedestrians and bicycles. Emergency vehicles will also be allowed to cross it. TDOT did several traffic studies, several firms have evaluated the integrity of the bridge so making it a pedestrian bridge seems to be the best option at this time. TDOT engineers informed the city the bridge needed to close in June of 2024, after a routine inspection. Further assessments by Gresham Smith found cracked bolts, distorted elements, and warped steel.

Last week, a full scope of the repairs to reopen the bridge to pedestrians was finalized, and a contract signed.

Charles Blalock & Sons will be leading repairs because of the company's expertise in bridge repair and experience working with the U.S. Corp of Engineers, TVA, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

The contract states repairs will not exceed \$1,944,929.50 and will be completed by December 31, 2025.

While preparations were being made for this next step, the City also sought out cost estimates for the full replacement of the bridge. Engineers estimate the cost would be between \$60-\$200 million.

**Traffic Light at Hill Avenue** – Can the light at Hill Avenue be reset for longer so more cars can get through the intersection? Tommy will look into it with Engineering.

**New Pillars at Island Home Avenue and Fisher** – Matt talked with Tommy about getting the process moving for the city to take ownership of the Pillars at Island Home Avenue and Fisher.

**Maplewood Curve** – It has become dangerous to leave the neighborhood via Maplewood due to the cars parked the wrong way and blocking the sightline around the corner. Can the city paint the curbs (where there are curbs) to prevent parking on the curve? These new homes have driveways. Tommy will look into it and thinks it might be a simple chat with the new neighbors.

### **Dogwood Arts Festival – Nancy Campbell**

The Dogwood Arts Trails open on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. The featured area this year is Holston Hills and Morningside Drive. The first event in South Knoxville will be held at The Common Place on April 1<sup>st</sup> from 10am – 2pm with local artists, vendors, food and music. Nancy also mentioned:

\*Knoxville Botanical Garden & Arboretum Dogwood Trail Walk & Talk: April 10th, 5-7PM

- 2743 Wimpole Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37914

A complete list of events can be found on the Dogwood Arts Festival website as well as in an email sent to the neighborhood by Nancy.

**Augusta Quarry Sign** – Matt talked about the old Augusta Quarry sign that needs a new home and asked for suggestions to submit. One idea was at the end of the trail at Ijams where the bench is located and it overlooks the river. Maybe the sign could have trail information.

**Greenway Benches** – According to David Brace, the Greenway Benches cost \$1500. The board discussed other ways to remember deceased neighbors. It was also discussed to look at putting marble plaques near trees at the top of the park like they do in Sequoyah Hills.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm

