



Good Things Are Growing in the Woods

DECATUR, GEORGIA

Midway Woods Association Annual Meeting Minutes Thursday, November 12, 2020 – Zoom! (Virtual Meeting)

In Attendance: Jennifer Beaver, Jody Whitlow, Harley Jebens, Jennifer Stewart, Stacie Wilson, Chris DePree, Karen Sedatole, Dale Oudems, Julia Knight, Martha Miller, Jennifer, Keisa & Danielle, Kera Allen, Kristen Avera, Nina Dawe, Ricky Steele, Arson McCullers and Katie Adcock

Purpose of Meeting: To discuss the upcoming the Annual Board Election, Neighborhood Involvement, the neighborhood's Paid Patrol Program, and plans for the upcoming Year.

- **Welcome and Board Introduction (Presented by Jennifer Beaver)**

- Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Meeting on Thursday, November 12th. We appreciate the participation and conversation that took place. We are looking forward to a fantastic upcoming year in Midway Woods.
- The meeting began with introductions from our current board members. Then, all neighbors in attendance had the opportunity to introduce themselves. The meeting had approximately 19 attendees.

- **Events & Accomplishments (Presented by Chris DePree)**

- **2019**

- **November:** Shoal Creek Clean-Up Event co-sponsored by Rivers Alive
- **December:** Holiday Party for the entire neighborhood, held at the Lost Druid Brewery **Silent Auction & Raffle Fundraiser**

- **2020**

- **February:** Neighborhood Meeting with a presentation on Avondale Elementary School at the Lost Druid Brewery
- **May:** Lisa's Creperie Food Truck Night in the Neighborhood
- **June:** Guest Driven BBQ Food Truck Night in the Neighborhood
- **August:**
 - Bradley Observatory Zoom Planetarium Night hosted by Chris DePree (Professor at Agnes Scott)
 - Organized survey and communicated with Dekalb County regarding proposed townhouse development along Memorial Drive. (To see results of the survey click [here.](#))
- **September:**
 - Neighborhood Book Club launch with its first (virtual) meeting to discuss James Baldwin's "The Fire Next Time."

- **September 25:** Food Truck Friday at Midway Woods, featuring Love at Worst Sight
- **November:** Annual meeting (originally scheduled for October 29th, 2020)
- **November:** Neighborhood Book Club meets to discuss Tara Westover’s “Educated.”

Looking Ahead (Presented by Jen Stewart)

- The board would like to ensure that the composition of our board members reflects the **diversity** that is found in our neighborhood. We would like to extend another invitation to underrepresented minority residents to join us as a board member or volunteer to enable us to better engage, communicate and represent the needs of our entire community.
- The board is having signs made for the neighborhood. This effort will increase our reach to neighbors who are not on social media. The signs will advertise important events and initiatives.
- The 2020/2021 MWA Board will:
 - Meet to define their goals for the coming year
 - Continue to plan safe/virtual events
 - Begin planning more in-person events once it is safe to do so.
 - Continue to solicit **feedback** from the community to determine needs and goals for the upcoming year. **Committee leads and volunteers** are needed.
 - Continue with annual membership drives, welcome new neighbors and encourage them to join throughout the year, to enlist greater involvement from the community.
- **Neighborhood safety** continues to be a top priority, and the board will continue to keep the security patrol active, as long there is community support for the initiative.
- Neighborhood residents can email midwaycommunications@gmail.com or call 404-507-2891 to contact the association and board, as needed.

Volunteers Wanted (Presented by Harley Jebens)

- The MWA Board is always seeking additional volunteers to participate in our neighborhood association. Volunteering can include:
 - Participating on the MWA Board – The board is actively seeking members to help diversify our board’s thoughts and ideas. We would love to hear from anyone who may be interested!
- Volunteering outside the Board can include:
 - **Communications Committee Participation:** Organizing the distribution of Flyers, Signs (6), Emails, Facebook and NextDoor posts. This committee is currently lead by Harley Jebens.
 - **Social Committee Participation:** Plan safe/virtual events to encourage neighborhood interactions (Book Clubs, Virtual Meetings and Presentations) and plan in-person events once it is safe to do so. This committee is currently lead by Jennifer K. Stewart.
 - **Security Patrol Committee Participation:** Work with the Security Patrol liaison to communicate with officers, Monitor Facebook & NextDoor posts involving crime in the community, recruit members for the Security Patrol and communicate with neighbors regarding questions or concerns. This committee is currently lead by Stacie Wilson.

- Neighborhood residents can email midwaycommunications@gmail.com or call 404-507-2891 to contact the association and board, if you are interested in getting involved!

Financial Summary (Presented by Jody Whitlow)

Total Revenue: \$2,210

Total Expenses: \$1,214.47

Net Income: \$995.53

- This Financial Report is as of 11/12/2020.
- As you review our financials, please note that the current balance includes all membership dues collected for the 2020/2021 term. The amount listed above does not include the expense for the neighborhood sign project, which was a budgeted 2020 expense.
- Revenue generators for the Neighborhood Association include Membership Payments, silent auctions & raffles, which take place at our annual Holiday Party (will not take place in December 2020 due to COVID-19 Concerns) and the sale of Neighborhood Flags.
- This financial summary does not include membership payments and corresponding expenses for our Neighborhood Security Patrol. Those funds are held in a separate account, and we are fully funded for weekly shifts through November 2020. To join for the 2020/2021 term, the cost is \$160 per household.

Security Patrol (Presented by Stacie Wilson)

- The neighborhood Security Patrol (*formerly the Paid Patrol*) is funded by annual payments of \$160/Household. The Security Patrol results in a weekly 3-4-hour patrol by off-duty DeKalb County Police Officers. Benefits of this program include neighborhood safety, Vacation Visits (as requested by members) and follow-ups from Security Patrol Officers upon the submission of Police Reports (Car/Shed Breaks-In, Domestic Disputes, etc.). This program was originally established as a result of consistent & profound requests from neighbors to ensure community safety. At the time, porch package theft and car break-ins were at an all-time high in the community.
- **2020 Program Highlights**
 - Established monthly summary reports for members to have visibility of the patrol logs and incidents.
 - Added patrol shifts during the night hours based on crime reports in Midway Woods and surrounding neighborhoods.
 - Continued to build beneficial relationships with our off-duty patrol officers.
 - Encouraged the use of the "vacation forms" to guarantee your homes will be monitored while you are away.
- **2021 Membership Drive**
 - The program is currently entering into its 3rd year.
 - Out registration campaign will end Friday, November 20, 2020.
 - Volunteers are needed to assist with program coordination and to recruit additional paying members.

- Reminder: Patrols are not routine. Instead, these programs are specifically coordinated to be random, Patrols are completed by the DeKalb County Police Department. The neighborhood is unincorporated. This program is the best way to ensure a police presence within the neighborhood at least once a week.
- If you would like to learn more about the Security Patrol, please reach out to our Security Patrol liaison by emailing midwaywoodswatch@gmail.com.

Board Member Election

- Each year, the MWA Board holds elections. Board members serve two-year terms. Neighborhood association members can vote on which board members will be elected to two-year terms.
- The Board is always looking for new members! If you are interested in participating on the board for the 2020/2021 Term, please reach out via email midwaycommunications@gmail.com or call 404-507-2891.
- The following board members will return for the **second** year of their two-year term:
 - Jennifer Beaver
 - Katie Adcock
 - Chris DePree
 - Jen Stewart
- The following neighbors are currently on the ballot for two-year terms:
 - Harley Jebens (Returning Board Member)
 - Jody Whitlow (Returning Board Member)
 - Stacie Wilson (Returning Board Member)

Additional Discussions during the Meeting

- **Dekalb County Arborist** – Neighbors would like to ensure the unnecessary elimination of trees does not take place when builders purchase homes for major renovation and resale.
- Blue Sky Condominium Complex continues to make progress on working through the legal
- **Valor Towers** (Townhome Complex on Memorial Drive) is fully approved by the county and will move forward with constructions. To learn more about this project please follow the below links.
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vZx_YkJ-ZaI7PQBXYCK855hkazsO4qiG/view
 - <https://vimeo.com/412418613>
- **Dearborn Park Weekend Clean-Ups**
 - Twice per Month – Alternating between Saturdays & Sundays
 - Contact Information: sarahzingaelli@yahoo.com or mlmiller@uncc.edu
 - Next Cleanup: Saturday, November 15th.
 - Social Distancing & Masks Required
- COVID Carport Art Sales -1236 Oldfield Road

- Julia Knight's Social Distanced & Masked Art Sale
- Saturday 11AM – 5PM and Sunday 1PM -5PM.