

**VILLAGE ASSOCIATION MEETING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019, BETHESDA THEATER
MINUTES¹**

1. Chair Charlie Scott, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., Friday, December 6, 2019.
2. Chaplain Pat Spears offered the invocation prayer.
3. Secretary Bill Marlowe briefly explained how the meeting draft minutes are proofed by the Village Association Board members prior to publication to the Village Association members. He also stated the various ways the Board approved draft minutes are made available to the Village Association members.

There being no corrections to the published draft minutes of the September 6, 2019 meeting, the minutes were voted on and unanimously approved by the members present.

4. Treasurer Jackie Gerrard presented the Treasurer's Report. She reported the current balance is \$754.71, plus \$23.58 in Petty Cash, for a total of \$778.29. The report was voted on and unanimously approved.
5. Old Business: None.
6. New Business: Jim Kellett, Communications Committee, gave a presentation on navigating Sunnyside Times (SsT). He reminded members that on December 14, 2019, the password to log on to SsT would change. There would be one common password for all members, and that password would be "Sunny." Jim explained in detail the various articles, posts, tabs, and links. He commented on the various ways to navigate within SsT.
7. Announcements:
 - a. Executive Director Josh Lyons shared several topics of discussion and updates. He discussed security on Sunnyside Campus is out-sourced (contracted), and it has been that way for many years. Currently, Sunnyside's contract is with Admiral Security. He stated Sunnyside is focused on enhancing gate security after dark/after hours. To that end, if gate security does not improve, Josh is looking at other security organizations, even considering bringing security service in-house so that Sunnyside staff members are providing campus security.

Josh explained why there is no handicap access at the parking lot entrance to the Bistro. He noted that while the Highlands back entrance at the Bistro is not handicap accessible, the Highlands main entrance does, in fact, meet handicap access requirements. He

¹ Secretary's Note: The meeting was audio/video recorded. The DVD recording is filed with the minutes, maintained by the Secretary. Please contact Secretary Bill Marlowe (wmarlo@ssemail.net) if you would like to see the recorded meeting.

commented that handicap access was addressed at the time of the Bistro construction. The architect said there were two ways to create handicap access at the Bistro: 1) build an elevated ramp, but that would require relocating the loading docks and dumpsters; and 2) install an elevator. However, both options were considered to be cost prohibitive. Josh reiterated the Bistro is handicap accessible through the Highlands main entrance.

Josh said Sunnyside is aware of the acoustics issue in the Allegheny and Blue Ridge Rooms—too much sound is trapped in the rooms. Sunnyside brought in a consultant to look at the issue. The quote to remedy the problem though that came back from the consultant is unreasonably high, so Sunnyside is looking at other alternatives.

Susan Sheridan commented regarding software that can provide closed captions and/or subtitles for those who are hard of hearing. Josh pointed out there are hearing enhancement devices available in these two rooms.

Regarding the painting error in the parking lot arrows that Jim Kellett mentioned in his presentation, that was a matter of the sign painter misinterpreting what was going to happen with the road being closed. He continued that Sunnyside has plans to eliminate certain crosswalk signs and painting other crosswalk signs, and to install larger, reflective, traffic stops signs. He said the paint used for the crosswalks is a special thermal-genic, heat applied, reflective paint, and cold weather is not the best time for that to be done. He noted speedbumps have lost some of their paint and that too will be addressed. Josh asked for members' patience as these matters are best dealt with in warmer weather.

Chair Scott thanked Josh for his participation and for taking questions and responding to members' questions and concerns.

b. Resident Council President Tom Harkins shared three Resident Council items.

(1) About a year ago the Resident Council formed an ad hoc committee to look into the Sunnyside Communities Board of Trustees to include a Sunnyside Resident on the Board. The committee submitted the subject recommendation and a request to the Board, not specifying preference whether a voting member or a non-voting member. Tom said he received a letter on November 12th from Judge James Rowe, Chairman of the Sunnyside Communities Board of Trustees, with the Board's final decision to not seat a Sunnyside Resident on the Board. He shared the letter stated the Governance Committee had researched the request with other communities who did and did not have a resident on their board. The Board voted not to amend its bylaws to mandate a designated seat for a resident. The Board expressed its resolve to continue to explore ways to enhance communications among the Board, Staff, Resident Councils, and Residents in all matters that call for Board involvement and review.

Tom commented there are a lot of residents here who do not agree with the Board's decision. The Board's decision does not mean that is the end of discussion. He

continued the Resident Council is looking to form an ad hoc committee to come together by the end of January to form an opinion and make a recommendation with the main purpose of providing written input on behalf of the residents of Sunnyside (not King's Grant and Summit Square) to include issues, proposals, plans, and construction, to provide resident opinions and input to the Board of Trustees.

- (2) Tom stated there have been requests to have political speakers to conduct "Town Hall" style meetings at Sunnyside. Tom said he believed the upcoming elections are very important, both National and State. We live in divided times right now. Also, there is a lot of concern about Second Amendment Rights, that is, curbing gun violence. It was recommended that elected officials be invited to Sunnyside. Tom said an invitation will be sent to State Senator Emmet Hanger after the first of the year. Senator Hanger represents the district that we live in here at Sunnyside. Tom continued that the Resident Council is looking to invite National Senator Tim Kaine to come here. Regarding Senator Warner, Tom noted he is running for reelection and that presents a problem—we would have to also invite who he may be running against, so right now, the focus is on incumbents.

Susan Sheridan stated she would like to request two things regarding political discussions: 1) please educate yourself; and 2) don't get snarky in your discussions.

- (3) Tom noted CEO Jack Broaddus is scheduled to retire in February. A nation-wide search for a new Sunnyside Communities CEO has been conducted. The search has been narrowed to five or less candidates. Those selected will visit Sunnyside campus the week of December 9th and the selected individual, if there is one, will be notified before the end of the year. If possible, the intent is to have the new CEO in place by the beginning of February 2020. Tom stressed this is dependent on the Search Committee finding and offering the position to a fully qualified and acceptable candidate.
- c. Independent Living Events Coordinator Layna Erney updated members regarding December's *Funside*. She expressly commented on the upcoming Sunnyside Holiday Gala on December 12th in the Highlands.
- d. Sunny Treasurers Chair Kay Stilwell announced that she is now the outgoing Chair of Sunny Treasurers. She thanked all for supporting her during her time as Chair. She noted that Sunny Treasurers gave \$35,000 toward the renovation of Sunnyside Room.

Chair Stilwell also mentioned the Sunnyside Employee Christmas Fund. She said she and Jim are Co-Chair of the committee this year. She stressed there are only a few days until the deadline for receiving donations for this fund. She noted the collection box has been put back on the wall in the Highlands, and there is also one by Katheryn Bennett's desk in Corson Lobby. She encouraged members to start saving money for this fund. Chair Stilwell reminded members that residents do not tip employees all year at Sunnyside. She remarked that members last year gave money to 345 employees. She noted this is the only opportunity members have to remember Sunnyside employees in a

monetary fashion. She stated she and Jim will soon send out the first letter to remind everyone. Chair Stilwell encouraged members to remember all the help Sunnyside employees give and to be as generous as you can.

- e. Sunnyside Singers led by Dottie Anderson performed a Christmas concert.
- f. Lorraine Davis introduced the following 10 new residents:

Rosemary Critzer, Village Ct. #16;
Richard Deadrick, Village Ct. #26;
Bill and Nancy Hain, 1101 Hickory Cove;
Charlie Henderson (Mary Henderson was not present), 4455 Grattan Price Dr. #3;
Kate and John Seaton, 1120 Hickory Cove;
Paul Staley, Village Ct. #15;
Jack and Margaret Thompson, 1316 Glenside Dr.

Chair Scott made closing comments, thanking the members for coming. He reminded members that the minutes would be available at both Front Desks and also on *Sunnyside Times*, and Resident Apps. In addition, members may email Secretary Marlowe and he will send them the minutes.

Chair Scott announced the next meeting of The Village Association is Friday, March 6, 2020.

He invited all to enjoy the Christmas Social refreshments.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.



Bill Marlowe, Secretary