

THE CORAM CIVIC ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting

April 28, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by President Erma Gluck, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our troops and for those impacted by the mid-west tornadoes. Board members present: Erma Gluck, Martin Bailey, Paul Ziems, Carol Bedell, Kathrine Soscia, Jean Hartling, Chris Reilly, Bob Gluck.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President: Erma Gluck announced: **1.** Availability of the "Guide to Filing Complaints About Your Regulated Utility Service"; **2.** The 50/50 drawing supports Civic expenses, scholarship and newsletter. Members are encouraged to participate; **3.** Food pantry items are still needed; please bring to meetings; **4.** May 17th is the date for several events: Longwood Day at the high school, the Great Brookhaven Cleanup and the Davis House Committee plant sale; **5.** The Annual Go Green event, Rx take-back and e-waste and paper shredding sponsored by Councilwoman Jane Bonner to take place at the Rose Caracappa Senior Center 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM May 3rd; **6.** Central Brookhaven Lions Club Chinese Auction on May 9th, 6:00 to 10:00 PM at the Coram Fire House; **7.** Groundbreaking for Wincoram Commons on Thursday, May 1st; **8.** The Smart Growth Award to be presented to the Coram Civic Association at the awards luncheon on June 13th.

Vice President: Martin Bailey reported that the Coram Elementary School collected 26,483 pounds of food during the recent food drive and came in second to one other district by only 600 pounds.

Treasurer & delegate CAC/BNL: Paul Ziems reported a treasury balance of \$2,809.87 as of March 31, 2014. A \$500.00 scholarship is available to a graduating student. The March meeting at Brookhaven Lab reviewed progress on site clean-up. The upcoming April meeting will provide information on the six weeks of "Summer Sundays" programs available for family participation.

Corresponding Secretary: Kathrine Soscia shared a thank-you letter received from Boys Scout Pack 64 for the donation given by the Civic. There will be a meeting with scholarship applicants to help determine the recipient.

Membership Secretary: Carol Bedell reported 117 members to date; this exceeds the membership of 115 last year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning and Land Use: Erma Gluck announced the groundbreaking ceremony for Wincoram Commons to take place on Thursday, May 1st. This is a major step to the development of the Coram town center.

Newsletter: Chris Reilly reported the Jan./Feb./March newsletter is out and copies are available to take. Surveys were distributed and members are encouraged to give input as soon as possible. Input may also be given through the Civic Association website at any time.

Police Liaison: Paul Ziems reported there have been 530 police calls and 300 arrests in our precinct recently. A word of caution: many of these are due to unlocked cars or handbags left inside when making quick

purchase stops. Martin Bailey reminded residents to check for identification if encountering door-to-door sales people. If there is no identification, call the 6th precinct. It was noted that there are now more COPE offices on staff to deal with these issues.

Davis House Committee – Maryanne Douglas and Margaret Colarossi provided an update on the May 17th plant sale. There will be vegetables, herbs, flowers and hanging basket for sale, plus a raffle basket, Master Gardner to help with questions, soil and strollers in period costume to walk the grounds. Flyers were available for taking and distributing.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Dr. Michael Lonergan, Superintendent of Longwood Schools gave an overview of the 2014-15 school budget which will be voted on Tuesday, May 20th, 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. He provided a handout outlining budget details. Dr. Lonergan stressed that the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GAP) of 2010 resulted in sizeable reduction of state support to the district causing staff and program cuts and increased class size. Some relief in the GAP this year will improve the situation. NYS approved energy savings programs (lighting, electric and other energy uses) also help. The district has an AA+ credit rating. Dr. Lonergan invited district residents to visit schools to see the quality programs. A discussion period followed and included topics on: the impact of funding for charter schools and universal pre-k; the budget tax cap, rebate checks and Veteran's exemptions; employee contracts and negotiations; district taxable value and Caithness II; gradual GAP reductions plans; and Common Core State Standards related testing.

A general question and answer period followed. Topics discussed were: the indoor soccer field at the old Edwards Food Store (Rtes. 25 & 83 - Selden); plans for the empty K-Mart (Middle Island); three trailers on Pauls Path (now removed) and Home Depot; possible increase in electric rates, and PILOTS (Payments in Lieu of Taxes as property tax reductions) with economic development such as Caithness II .

50/50 DRAWING:

The 50/50 was drawn by Dr. Lonergan. The winner was Vana McClure who took home \$39.00.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Martin Bailey made the motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Kathrine Soscia. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Hartling
Recording Secretary