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Subject: Jan. 23, 2017 BANA Minutes

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To: Christopher C. Marney info@banaschenectady.org, Chris White thechriswhitestudio@gmail.com, Stephan Andersson stephan.e.andersson@gmail.com, Eileen LaCourse booksonstage@aol.com, Crystal Santos crystal.root@gmail.com

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**Boulevard Appreciation Neighborhood Association (BANA)
Board Meeting: January 23, 2017
Site: Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Rugby Road, Schenectady**

Present: Chris Marney, Stephan Andersson, Joan Elliott, Crystal Santos;

Absent: Eileen LaCourse, Chris White (excused);

MINUTES: Minutes of 2016 approved

FINANCIAL REPORT: Chris Marney presented the financial report on behalf of Chris White, treasurer. Six households and three individuals have paid dues. C.White/C. Marney donated \$100 in order to establish a bank account. The total in the bank account is \$270. BANA will file its tax report as required by law and Stephan Andersson agreed to review it before it was filed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chris Marney solicited ideas for a future BANA social event for the spring. It was suggested that it might be combined with the required annual meeting in May. Suggestions of events included a game night and a wine and cheese party, the latter which would be hosted by a resident. The board is looking for other ideas.

C. Marney used the Schenectady City Council privilege of the floor to ask the city for a response to BANA's letter concerning traffic safety issues. He said that Councilman Edward Kosiur agreed to meet with him to discuss the issues and possibly to establish collaboration with the Woodlawn Homeowners' Association that shares some concerns. (Mr. Kosiur is president of the Woodlawn Homeowners Association.)

SCHENECTADY UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS (SUN)

Crystal Santos agreed to represent BANA at the next meeting of SUN, the organization that represents all city neighborhood associations. It meets the third Tuesday of the month at city hall. That meeting is Feb. 21.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

BANA received a request to meet with the Schenectady Habitat for Humanity president to talk about home ownership. BANA may raise the issue of so called "zombie" properties that might be potential Habitat rehab projects.

RIVERS CASINO APPRECIATION NIGHT

Chris Marney and Stephan Andersson agreed to represent BANA in a Feb. 6 "community appreciation" event being held from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. by the Rivers Casino which is opening in February.

BANA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Discussion focused on ways to gain dues-paying BANA members. An application form is on the website. It was suggested membership forms could be distributed block by block in the BANA neighborhoods, there could be a limited mailing (depending on the cost/effectiveness), or an advertisement could be put in the Gazette newspaper's "Niskayuna/Northside" insert that is distributed in the neighborhood.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Recruitment of high school students doing community service projects was suggested for island maintenance.

Linda and Jason Reyes volunteered to have a plant donation/purchase fundraiser for BANA. Any unsold plants would be contributed to island plantings. It was suggested they contact the Schenectady Greenhouse and Cooperative Extension for free plants.

The board appointed the Reyes to chair the BANA beautification committee. (Motion by S. Andersson/ second by C. Santos).

Passed unanimously.

NEXT BANA BOARD MEETING: March 20, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church.