

**GPOA Summer Membership Meeting
Orringer Auditorium
3 June 2024, Program Start at 5:30pm**

Program at 5:30pm

The Board conducted no business at this meeting. The first 53 minutes, prior to the call to order, were characterized largely with information regarding fire safety.

Prior to the program's start, residents signed in, received a Vial of Life medical information packet, ballots, and a raffle ticket. GPOA members not attending will have ballots distributed by "ponyexpress" or by U.S. Mail.

The program was accompanied by lovely videos prepared by Julia Burke with content timed to coincide and reflect the ongoing activities. Among the event presentations: Bob Brinson, 6th Ward Alderman, summarized several New Bern City matters, including financial concerns. He noted the average speed on Pine Valley gathered by posted equipment spanning some days was 23.9 mph, less than the posted 25 mph. A statement authored by from Jason R. Jones, County Commissioner, was read. Some budgetary matters were noted. The only fee increase will be the recycling program with fee going to \$72.00 from \$60.00 per year. Bob Welch commented on the Vile of Life handout; EMS Tony Heckman spoke in a similar spirit. Jeff Connor, of the New Bern Fire Department, spoke largely about fire detectors, and how the department can assist homeowners. Mr. Connor draw tickets for winners of the raffle items, fire blankets. Doug Cheek gave a spirited entertaining account of his personal fire blanket use in controlling a blaze, complete with a "hang out" of his black scorched but reusable blanket.

1. Call to Order 6:23pm

2. Role Call

Renee Brochu, present
Julia Burke, present
Doug Cheek, present
Andy Early, present
Vickie Ryckman, present
Sarah Sawyer, present
Hoben Thomas, present

3. Activities following Call to Order

Special recognition was given to Rosemary Whetzel and Gini Gray for their gardening activities. The heads of GPOA committees were identified and thanked for their efforts. Lou Costello addressed matters of waste water debris, and associated water drainage issues. And a plea was made not to feed the geese!

4. President's Report, Julia Burke

Outlined were four issues the Board is discussing: 1) Yard signs, those provided by the GPOA, and those unapproved signs sometimes seen. 2) Should we continue distributing mailbox GPOA membership stickers in their current form? A less expensive alternative would be paste-over stickers displaying just the year. 3) Shift Directory printing to March, to better capture current GPOA membership, with an earlier dues payment cutoff date. 4) The Parkway pond fountain: Should it be replaced, and if so, what is the cost of a new installation and expected ongoing maintenance cost? So far at least, there are no answers. The Board is working on it. The audience was informed that updates on these matters will appear on mailchimp distributions.

5. Member Questions

Jerry Flanagan asked for further clarification of the fountain issue which was addressed by Geoffrey Smith.

6. July Meeting has been cancelled

7. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.

Hoben Thomas, Board Secretary

7 June 2024