

BCI CIVIC MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 1, 2015

Present at the meeting were: Newcastle County Executive Thomas P. Gordon. Land Use James Senator Bryan Townsend, County Councilwomen Lisa Diller, Smith Major Vaughn Bond, Sgt. Wesley Reynolds Officer Perry Sorrls C

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Vic called the meeting to order. The minutes for November were read and a motion to approve as read was made and all were in favor.

The Cub Scout Troop 255 and the Girl Scout Troop 449 presented a certificate of appreciation to Brookside for allowing them to use the hall to serve a dinner to over 60 needy people. They also supplied them with coats and warm winter clothing.

Vic explained several issues and concerns of the residents the letter from the IRS three months ago about the 990 not being paid. This happened when we were between the two accountants. One leaving saying it would be done and the new one not double checking that it was. This year's being sent in through up a red flag saying what happened to last years. A letter of forgiveness was sent and the fee of \$5300 was waved. The nonprofit organization status was not suspended. The \$25.00 fee is automatically paid every year and was not in any danger of lapsing. The Internal Dispute Form for complaints that are on the web site or in the office wasn't filled out or received by any board member. No one ever emailed any questions or concerns. Some financials are grouped together and not clear they will be working on breaking them down so you can better understand where your money is being spent.

Michael the BCI lawyer discussed a letter to the president & treasure with 11 complaints and concerns and asking for resignation of the president & treasurer from concerned homeowners of Brookside. This letter will be attached to the minutes. In order for the board to respond to this question they need to be informed of them first.

He went over the policy procedures of the IDR. Whether it's in the office or on the web which is [brookside.org](http://brookside.org). We all need to communicate better between ourselves. The board needs to work on being more open and transparent. He discussed that Brookside started in the early 50's as a Maintenance Corporation and being amended Brookside Community of Incorporation with social activities. He responded to people asking for minutes and financials and being denied and not being readily available. He spoke on the D.U.C.O.I.A. Law started in 2009 which can't apply to every community equally. You need to consider the bylaws, declarations, corporate law etc. He recommended a certified public account to do a review.

A resident compared Brookside with other communities where he also owns homes. These communities were much more transparent and communicated more openly. We need to work harder on improving these areas. A Resident asks about the cameras. Yes the eleven thousand dollars for them were board approved and in the budget. We have \$167,000. in cash reserve. We took the reserve line off the budget and are working off of 80% of the expected dues to be collected. We have only 177 delinquent homes at present.

Mr. Curtain spoke that the board and the community have obligations. Before he can get involved an Internal Dispute Resolution Form needs to be in place. These problems are all up and down the state in all three counties. He went over the procedures and left forms on the back table.

Vic read a letter of accomplishments starting with his office three years ago. He will be adding an archives page on web page. He thanked the other board members and the police for their service. His letter will be attached to the minutes.

Ms. Diller reported that 37 Carlisle has been sold. Attorneys said the contractors should be around soon deciding what to start on next. A neighbor reported they recovered all the cats and are caring for them, anyone wanting any let her know.

Office Sorrel gave the crime report 74 complaints, 34 car stops, 20 citations & 12 warnings.

Resident reported that Brookside Blvd. is having an ATV & mini bikes problem. Please call 911 to have a paper trail. They did put a reverse 911 hopefully someone will get some information' about these riders. Warning: packages are being taken between 8-4 from the front steps of homes. Also heroin alert program at Kirk Middle School on Jan 27. It's a 45 min. program. The police are doing a coat drive at the Garfield house on Dec. 19th. Officer Sorrel introduced the Operation Branch Manager who complemented the community for the success in the community. Overall Brookside is in a good place thanks to a team effort. Question from a resident about the drug traffic in the park on Kenmar Dr. Between Scottfield & Brookside behind Advance Auto. Officer Sorrel will check into it. The police suggested using a program called Next door.com. To exchange community information.

Vic introduced Jim Smith from Land Use they work closely with the police. Right now they are monitoring 40 vacant properties in Brookside. Now they have established a vacant home registration. This year they have had 150 complaints for vacant homes & resolved about 68% of them. They have now attached fees for these vacant homes. You can let Ms. Diller know of any complaints on vacant homes.

New Business all the papers have been signed for the Old Newark Road project. The plans are done and no exact dates but it should start in the Spring and finish in the Fall of 2016.

The Santa tour will be Dec. 19 from 4-6 followed by the party. Volunteers needed, just call Vic. A good job was done on the clean out behind Keller and Rt. 72 but only covered one and a half houses. This project needs to be finished. No meeting in January. Have a Safe holiday. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,

Barbara Smith