

Fairness In Taxes

Meeting Minutes 5-1-15

Board Attendance: Sheila & Bill Hartranft, Michael Hinchman, Leo Burke, Don Kerns, Dale Nicholas, Joe Somerville & Jim Tweed

Meeting opened by Michael Hinchman with Pledge Allegiance at 3:00 P.M.

President Michael Hinchman

Ocean City Smart Growth

- Michael Hinchman met Phyllis Coletta. She seems to be a game changer; is an attorney, has time, well-intentioned and experience in politics (Colorado). We discussed the Perry Egan property, Palermo market and the plan for duplexes on 30' lots with a variance for the corner lot. Should be 40' lots.
- Phyllis made a "splash" at the Council meeting; would like to see them replaced. Michael's advice—don't bring a knife to a gunfight.
- Smart Growth would like to see less density.
- Phyllis seems to be a winner; determined, energetic and can last for the long haul.
- Michael doesn't feel he has the time or the experience in this area that Phyllis has.
- He also recommended we find a way to go after support from the "transplants".
- He advised Phyllis to make Smart Growth a "legal entity". Register, create by-laws, etc. Her efforts could tie in with OC Flooding. Should be a way for us to work together.
- In discussion Mike Allegretto tends to stay quiet. He should always be asked very direct questions.
- Michael suggested setting up a meeting with Smart Growth to include Phyllis, Jeff Sutherland, Himself, Jim Tweed and Bill Hartranft.
- Bill Hartranft commented on the Smart Growth meeting Phyllis held—was ½ hour as she allotted, organized, motivational & concise. Approximately 30 in attendance along with 3 members of the press.

Baker-Watts Study

- Jim Mallon would like to see the study area expanded. Asked where the study was; he indicated he would have information by May 23rd.
- When council was asked about the study, it was classic case of yes with no action.
- Bill Hartranft will make contact with Councilman DeVlieger, forewarning him that after the 23rd, he intended to ask council what the status is.

Ocean City Flood Committee – Eric Sauder

- Eric indicated that Art Chew his engineering study was correct, we just don't understand it. He did not offer further explanation.
- There are still some "no wake" signs left if anyone is interested.
- They are working on a map which will indicate all roads experiencing flooding issues.
- Michael Hinchman cautioned that the members of the flooding committee don't become the issue, but rather flooding is the issue. Nice, with tact pays off.

Bookmobile – Michael Hinchman

- A very expensive vehicle seems to be parked most of the time. No one seems to know the target market. When Jennifer Shirk was asked about it she stated “I’m not for it either”. We should put in an OPRA request to Linda McIntyre on costs.
- Jennifer Shirk, President-Library Board of Trustees and Karen Maha, Head Librarian perhaps should be invited to speak at next FIT meeting.

Treasurer’s Report – Bill Hartranft

- Dues so far are \$6,300.00; down from last year. Commented that usually funds come in shortly after every newsletter is published.

Final comment by Don Kerns -- Phyllis Coletta should run a campaign for candidates for the next council election.

Meeting adjourned 4:00 P.M.

Next meeting will be Friday, June 5, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by:
Sheila Hartranft, Secretary