

OSW Community Meeting AGENDA
Thursday 1/19/2023

6:00-6:30 Social

WELCOME: Who is new to OSW meetings? Who is new to OSW in 2022?

Call to Order

Board attending: Terry McGuire, Mark Hostetter, Annmarie Drake, Bill Dandridge, Elaine Fleck

Absent: Phillip Morgan, Julie Mugford, Mary Anne Mather

16 neighbors

Approve November 2022 community meeting minutes. Passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--TY Shirley & Rick Poss for providing social refreshments.

Ask & Identify volunteer(s): OSW Community Meeting social 2/16.

--**OSW Festival of Lights Dec. 3-31:** \$50 cash prize winners

624 Mountain—most lights (Roger Wesley)

542 Mountain—most creative (gingerbread house). Donated prize back to OSW. Inc.

613 8th St—Best overall design (Steve Hite/Joe Reneer)

609 5th St—Best Business (On the Edge Salon/Beth Dimun)

--**OSW Parlor Tour:** Annual OSW Fundraiser to support Gish Hse. & OSW projects. 400 attended. ~\$4000 net income.

--**Pocket Park:** Inaugural Tree Planting & Garden Prep 12/10 was a great success: 10 trees planted & “lasagna” mulch layers laid on 2 new garden areas (corner Day Ave/8th St SW). OSW awarded \$6450 from 3 grants to proceed with park development in 2023.

--**Highland Park ES:** Seeking Chess Club volunteers. Contact: jmugford01@gmail.com

--**English Boxwood Pruning Workshop** 2/11 or 18. Contact Mark Hostetter (organizer) if interested.

PRESENTER: Robbie Boyd, Director of Elder Rights, League of Aging (LOA) rboyd@loaa.org

- Handed out brochure, contains a short overview of all services offered.
- Service area: Alleghany, Craig, Botetourt, Roanoke County, Roanoke City, Salem
- Celebrating 50 years in operation. 40 employees, 350 volunteers, serve 75,000 seniors
- Quasi-government NGO; gov't & grant funding. All services free (monthly lunch/speaker)
- Waiting list for transportation assistance (transportation charged on sliding scale)
- Accept donated medical equipment: wheelchairs, canes, crutches, potty chairs, unused adult diapers; Food pantry is volunteer/donation opportunity.
- Robbie can collect donated items if collected at Gish House.

- Q&A: Is LOA a Virginia program, or national? Nat'l umbrella group with Area Agencies on Aging, via the Older Americans Act. Every part of the state has a different AAA affiliate. In Roanoke, it's LOA. Several questions about how people can volunteer.

OSW BUSINESS

1. Introduce New OSW Board Members

Attending members e briefly introduced themselves.

Two open positions were announced. Invited participation on the Board.

2. Brief Review of Committees & Seek Volunteers

Committee structure shared onscreen.

3. Overview of 2023 OSW goals, activities, events (not presented).

Treasurer David Jeavons presented OSW 2023 budget. Noted:

~ \$2,500 outstanding from Parlor Tour sponsors

Anticipating \$6,500 in Gish House apt rental 2023

Suggestion from the crowd to more actively promote Gish House for event rentals. Updating Apple Maps with info on Gish House.

Vote called. Passed.

4. Results of Community Survey

Betsy Nixon shared insights

- Most people who answered the survey (40%) have only lived in OSW 1-5 years.
- We lack feedback on how to get information and news out to the community.
Betsy mentioned a future survey question might be, "How do you get your information about OSW meetings and news?"

5. Floor opened to other issues/questions:

--What's going on with the bridge closing? Someone said they're going to detour through Day Avenue. Triggered some concern. Clarification: no plan to route traffic through Day specifically.

--President noted observing speeding on residential streets, and suggested inviting someone from the Police Department to attend a meeting to talk about speeding and unsafe driving.

--Requested announcement to share (not presented):

Roanoke City Police Chief Sam Roman announced recently that his department has received funding that will allow them to open a real time crime center in 2023. The center would help field officers get instant information that could stop an imminent crime. "To be able not only to predict crime, but to get in front of crime in a real-time way, to interrupt crime," Roman said. Another way the new funding, which was made possible by a grant from the state, will help is by allowing the department to purchase new license plate readers that will be able to tell police what vehicles were in the area where a crime occurred. This will help in situations where there are no witnesses or witnesses, and victims are being uncooperative. Roman said the readers would only be used for criminal investigations and no date for implementation of either new resource was given. (Drug dealing on 6th at Day & behind house on Elm (Danko video) to be continued...