

## St. Charles Hills Subdivision Meeting 2022-05-21

### Meeting Notes

We had an excellent meeting of the (St. Charles Hills) minds this morning in the Jefferson School Cafe. Nine brave souls joined us to eat homemade strawberry and cherry muffins with coffee. They were brave because we were in the midst of a thunderstorm with great torrents of (cats and dogs) rain. We discussed several timely topics as they pertain to our subdivision and our St. Charles neighbors overall.

- 1) **Block Party:** We will hold a Subdivision Block Party at Fleet Park on June 25th from 4-7pm. We would like to meet our neighbors - both young and old. We will ask for RSVP's as the trustees will provide meat for BBQ. We are hoping for a good potluck with games and fellowship. Please plan ahead to attend. More information will be released as we gather details.
- 2) **Neighborhood Watch:** We are looking for block captains who are willing to introduce themselves to neighbors and be willing to watch for suspicious activity. If we know our neighbors, we will be more inclined to notice when strangers appear on their property so we can notify authorities. Please contact the trustees if you are interested. We could invite St. Charles County or City Police to do training.
- 3) **Renters in the Subdivision:** We will be asking landlords to provide the subdivision indentures to those who rent from them. We would also invite renters to join in subdivision parties and festivities (including garage sales). We want to know all of our neighbors.
- 4) **Chickens in the Subdivision:** We want to remind our neighbors that poultry are not allowed within the subdivision. While St. Charles County allows them, the subdivision does not.
- 5) **Yard of the Month:** We would like to reinstate the Yard of the Month program but need volunteers to nominate beautiful yards. Please contact the trustees if you are interested or have a yard you'd like to recommend. (We ask residents before we place a sign in their yard.)
- 6) **Finances:** We had a lengthy discussion about subdivision financials and the delinquent accounts. We currently have \$70,000 in delinquent accounts and only about \$5,000 in cash on hand. We are aggressively pursuing those who do not pay their \$50 dues because we must maintain the common ground parks and keep the electricity on for the streetlights. It gives us no pleasure to do this. However, we had a \$48,500 expenditure for storm drains (nearly our whole budget for 2021) and we need to hold people accountable. Yes, they will pay interest and legal fees, and yes, we do allow payments. But we will not allow the subdivision to suffer for the malfeasance of a few.
- 7) **One-Way Service Roads:** This was a topic of enthusiastic conversation. Some have expressed a desire to see this project revised. Another resident shared current information from the St. Charles County website with a plan that is more innovative. One neighbor said it would be helpful if people banded together in our subdivision to attend County Council meetings to speak

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against this initiative. Contact the trustees if you are interested in forming a group and we will connect interested parties.

- 8) **Parks/Common Ground:** The trustees discussed upgrades to our common ground parks (painted swing sets and new swings). However, neighborhood hooligans have defaced our equipment once again. One neighbor suggested we place cameras in the common grounds. If anyone is willing to donate cameras to the cause, please contact the trustees. We want our parks to be fun and safe for our many young children, but we simply don't have the funds to maintain cameras at this time.
- 9) **Maintain Your Property Line:** We have received numerous complaints about those who do not maintain the vegetation on their property line. If you allow bushes, weeds and vines to grow so as to cause a nuisance to your neighbor, please know you are causing great consternation and stress. This is also against the subdivision ordinances. We also have elderly neighbors who need assistance. The trustees will be taking these complaints seriously and contacting neighbors who have not maintained the fence line (including on the common grounds).
- 10) **More Subdivision Meetings:** Our neighbors expressed an interest in meeting with our councilman. The trustees will contact the councilman and see if we can schedule time to discussion pertinent issues to our area. Look for more information to be released shortly.

We want to thank everyone who attended. We are proud to live in St. Charles Hills and want to do everything within our power to make this a community of choice. Please get out and meet your neighbors — both new and old — to form strong relationships and a stronger community. Please reach out if you are interested in getting involved or volunteering your time.

**Trustees:** Cathy, Margaret & Jennifer