

Heritage Farm POA Meeting
October 18, 2015 - 2:30 p.m.
Heritage Farm Pavilion

Doug Fulton, Heritage Farm POA President, called the meeting to order. Board Members were introduced along with former Board Members that continue to volunteer for various projects.

New residents and first time attendees of Heritage Farm POA Meeting were recognized.

After review of the Minutes of the 4-12-2015 POA Meeting, a motion was made by Frank Baptist, seconded by Dan Brown to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Sherry Gage presented the Treasurer's Report stating the pool loan is now financed through First Security and a \$5,000 lump sum payment has been made on the pool loan.

Doug gave an update on moving the pool loan to First Security. He stated when looking at the bank balance on the report it might appear there is a surplus. He explained this balance is a result of money saved by refinancing the pool loan at a lower interest rate which allows for planning of upkeep and maintenance of big projects such as resurfacing pool, street lights, etc., which will need to be accomplished in the near future.

Motion made by Kerry Murphy and seconded by Frank Baptist to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion Passed.

Kay Ruch reported on delinquent POA dues. Currently approximately \$23,000 is due from outstanding POA dues. Beginning in December 2015, all delinquent dues from June 2015 will be referred to the attorney for collection. Homeowners will no longer be allowed to have delinquent dues for an extended period of time. Liens will be filed against the property.

Kirk Lane, Benton Chief of Police, was introduced by Doug. Chief Lane explained that violent crimes are down 14% in Benton and property crimes are up 2%. He stated many of these crimes are the result of Benton being in a triangle between Pine Bluff and Little Rock. He encouraged calling the Police Department if you see suspicious activity or strangers in your neighborhood. One tip from a neighborhood may lead to many arrests for the same type of crime.

Chief Lane stated Benton officers are more visible in the community and working to change the public image of police officers. The police department covers seven school campuses. The School Resource Officers have been increased from 2-4 officers and patrol officers now walk through 2 or 3 schools each day. These are unannounced and unscheduled visits which add to the security and safety of schools.

Chief Lane encouraged the use of Nextdoor which is a website used by the police department to share Daily Crime Reports as well as a tool to be used by neighborhoods to enhance the Neighborhood Watch. He stated you can keep up with crime in your neighborhood and be alerted within a very short time.

Benton Police Department now has access to a portable radar unit that records time, speed of cars, number of cars, etc. This information is analyzed to determine the peak times of speeders, etc. and where stronger enforcement is needed. Even with Channels 4, 7 and 11 reporting the radar would be on Alcoa Road near Hurricane Creek Elementary School, many drivers still exceeded the speed limit and were issued tickets. Complaints were received regarding speeding in Heritage Farm so the radar unit was utilized in our neighborhood.

Chief Lane asked that all parents lock-up your medicine and when it is out of date, take it to a Drug Take Back location or the police department. He stated in the previous six years there have been no heroine cases in Benton. In the past two months there have been seven heroine cases. High quality marijuana from legalized states has made its way to Benton. Benton has received many grants which have been used for drug enforcement and saved the tax payer dollars as well as money seized in drug cases.

Chief Lane stated, "You know the cars your neighbors drive and you know their schedule. Don't be afraid to call us if you see suspicious activity or strange cars in the neighborhood. The non-emergency number is 778-1171." Also, close your garage and lock your car doors. Don't leave valuables in sight in your car. You may hesitate to lock your car doors fearing the windows might be broken to gain entry. Chief Lane stated they have had no reports of broken windows in cars. People are looking for easy targets.

There was discussion on dogs being loose in the neighborhood especially on weekends and after regular Animal Control hours. Chief Lane stated

call 911 or the non-emergency number at the police department - 778-1171 and ask for an officer to be sent to your home. The officer can document the problem, deal with the animals and call Animal Control.

Kerry Murphy and Frank Baptist reported on City of Benton projects.

While the City of Benton was repairing Stonewall here in Heritage Farm, a spring was discovered. The spring and clay is requiring extensive repair to alleviate the recurring problem.

Kerry Murphy reported on the Alcoa Road Project. Utilities are being moved on Alcoa. The project will take approximately two years and will take precedence over the Boone Road Project. The traffic light at Alcoa and Boone will be removed and replaced with a roundabout. There will be two small roundabouts from Boone Road to the Service Road. A traffic light will be installed at Alcoa and Northshore. Upon completion of the Alcoa Project, when leaving Emerald Valley and entering Alcoa Road you will only be able to turn right. Therefore, more traffic coming through Heritage Farm is anticipated.

A new shopping center is being developed on I-30 Service Road next to Landers Jeep. It will be entered from the Service Road and Hwy. 5. Highway 5 from the Pulaski County Line to Benton will become 5 lanes. There will be a new fire department/police substation on Hwy. 5 across from Sonic.

There were questions about cleaning the creeks. Since they belong to the neighborhood the City of Benton cannot maintain them. There was

discussion on equipment required to clean creeks and volunteers operating the equipment. No definite plans were made.

Kim Lawson, a current board member, is volunteering to help maintain the playground equipment by pressure washing and staining it.

Board members and former board members volunteer their time and labor and receive no payment for anything they do. They help maintain the neighborhood, and take care of the daily operation & business of Heritage Farm POA. These volunteer hours save the POA a huge sum of money each year. Volunteers replace light bulbs at entrances, keep the street lights on, maintain the pool, provide bookkeeping services and many other tasks. If you would like to volunteer, contact any of the Board Members.

Kim Lawson is now handling Pavilion Reservations. The Pavilion can be reserved on the Heritage Farm Website. Be sure to give your phone number and e-mail address. The fees for rental are:

\$25.00 - Half Day

\$50.00 - Full Day

\$75.00 - Deposit which will be returned if pavilion is left in same condition as when reserved. During the pool off-season, fees and deposit for pavilion rental will be mailed to Heritage Farm POA, P.O. Box 423, Benton, AR 72018.

Robert Gage reported on the pool. Robert is a former Board Member and for many years he and Mike Culp, also a former Board Member, have maintained the pool. The pool is showing wear and will need to be resurfaced within the next couple of years. Robert stated he and Mike

do not use the pool and both are trying to retire from pool duty. He stated he would gladly show volunteers how to check chemicals, etc. for the pool. If your family uses the pool and you are willing to volunteer any amount of time, please contact Robert. Two or three volunteers will make a huge difference.

Heritage Farm Website, Facebook and Nextdoor - Kay asked that you indicate on today's sign-in sheet for this meeting if you want to connect with Nextdoor. She stated Facebook and Nextdoor are great tools to connect with the neighborhood. The website is used to share information about the neighborhood.

Doug stated he is waiting on clarification from the attorney on Compliance issues. Several areas are vague and clarity is needed before we can proceed.

Solicitors are required to have a City Permit to go door to door selling items or services. Heritage Farm has a No Solicitation Policy and signs are posted at all entrances. Therefore, clarity is needed before the Heritage Farm Policy can be enforced. In the past, just asking the solicitor if he/she has a City Permit will deter him/her and they will leave the neighborhood if they do not have the permit.

A drawing was held for \$100 credit on POA due for 2016. Joyce Patterson, a new resident of Heritage Farm, won the drawing.

Motion to Adjourn by Kerry Murphy, seconded by Kay Ruch.
Meeting Adjourned.

