



## Bel-Air Heights Home Owners Association

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### **Minutes from November, Social Committee meeting**

#### **BAH Social Committee 2021 Spring through Fall Activities Debriefing and Preliminary 2022 Activity Planning**

These notes are a summary of and a “lessons learned” from our spring through fall, 2021 activities and preliminary planning of 2022 activities.

Adhering to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic social distancing guidelines, we organized our 2nd contest for participants to find the individual letters B-L-A-C-K-C-A-T that were put in the yards of 8 Committee members or neighbors (1 letter per yard.) (Yards of Becky, Ann Bohrn, Horowitz family, Kay Bove, Tritsch family, Jennifer and Brad Burton, Knappenberger family, and Mark Fujisaki.) Jakob sent emails to the neighborhood about this activity and Becky promoted it on our Facebook page. The letters were displayed on Monday, 10/4/2021 and were taken down on Friday, 10/29/2021. We had 10 submissions of the correct locations and letter in each location. Prizes of \$5 Golden Scoop gift cards were either given to winners at the Halloween Parade or delivered to their homes.

We organized our 2nd Halloween children’s and pet parade and started it an hour earlier this year - 4:30 PM on Sunday, 10/31/2021. The weather was again great although a bit cooler than last year. The parade route started and ended at Ann Bohrn’s front yard, and proceeded south on Somerset until 94th Terrace, crossed the street and returned up the sidewalk to Outlook and back to Ann’s yard. Becky and her family led the parade, so we avoided confusion as to the turn-around spot. As with last year, families split off from the parade on the way back and began trick or treating on their own. A suggestion has been made that we consider having Halloween chalk drawings along the parade route and/or we have Halloween music playing along the route. Another suggestion is perhaps we change the parade route although we don’t know what that new route might be. We also might consider combining a scavenger hunt with the parade and distribute the goody bags at the end of the route. Rebecca displayed 4 Children Playing signs at the intersection of Somerset and Outlook in the hopes of slowing the traffic but, as with last year, there were some drivers who insisted on driving through the intersection instead of waiting 10-15 minutes. A suggestion was made to consider closing the intersection for 10-15 minutes but Carol W isn’t enthusiastic about this as it will surely result in complaints and a possible reprimand from the city that we didn’t use official barricades provided by the city. Perhaps next year we have all available committee members and any other volunteers to help by walking along with the parade, slowing cars driving the area and safeguarding the paraders. We also will send notices to the neighborhood asking them to avoid driving in the parade area, if at all possible. We had a card table on which we put small treat bags containing a glow stick, small glow ball, stretchy skeleton, windup toy, and Halloween tattoos for the children to receive (1 bag per child). Karen purchased (\$165) and assembled approximately 100 of these bags and we gave out 95 of them (the last 5 were given to some children who live on Woodson and were unable to participate in the activity.) There was no “inclement weather” date and we were delighted the weather was so conducive to this enjoyable activity. Jakob

sent emails to the neighborhood about this activity and Becky promoted it on our Facebook page. As with last year, we received many thank-you's from parents and children with comments that it was really fun and they enjoyed it. In 2022, Halloween will be on a Monday. We will probably survey the neighborhood ahead of time (via email and/or Facebook survey) to determine if neighbors prefer having the parade on Sunday evening, 10/30, or on Monday, 10/31.

We had planned that neighborhood Trick or Treating would follow the parade but, as with last year, many residents on Somerset had tables and treats at the end of their driveways during the parade so the children picked up the treats as they paraded. These participating neighbors seemed to really enjoy themselves and this appears to be an activity they have decided is theirs to enjoy. Some again had fire pits to keep warm during the activities and to warm any children who were interested in doing so. After the parade additional Trick or Treating took place by other neighbors putting treats at the end of their driveways or from their front doors. It appeared that, as with last year, the neighborhood as a whole had less trick or treaters than normal even though we did emphasize that treats are available throughout the neighborhood and not just on the parade route and that the trick or treating will start immediately after the parade. Jakob and Becky's announcements included information promoting this as a "safer" way for trick or treating since the pandemic continues to impact many social activities.

We had a fall scene "photo area" for parents and their children and anyone else who was interested in using this as a backdrop for photos that either they took of themselves, or Committee members took for them. We posted these photos on our neighborhood website and on Facebook. The area consisted of a hanging sheet (placed in a frame) of a color-revitalized gnome with fall foliage scenery artistically painted by Rebecca and Becky, and we placed 4 large bales of hay, fake pumpkins, scarecrows, mum plants, etc. in front of the painted backdrop. We had this available for admiring and photo taking on Friday, 10/22/2021 thru Sunday, 10/24/2021 and Friday, 10/29/2021 thru Sunday, 10/31/2021 in Ann's yard. We have decided to have this photo area available for one weekend only (the weekend closest to Halloween) since it doesn't appear to be used the first weekend.

In total we spent about \$240 on these activities which was \$20 less than in 2020.

Carol K organized 1 Friday evening Happy Hour/month from May through October with a total of 6. These activities were from 5:30-7:30 PM. They were generally attended by about 8-10 folks and were held in a socially distanced manner on Ann's circular driveway. Most participants used lawn chairs generously provided by Ann and brought their own food and drinks. It has been decided to not continue this activity in 2022 as they were not well attended as we had hoped.

This year Carol W organized our having Food (Dessert) Trucks. There was a bit of rescheduling/shuffling of the trucks due to either weather conditions or availability of the vendors, but we had a total of 11 trucks on Saturdays between May through October. They consisted of Brew Ha-ha coffee/tea/smoothie, Makin Sweet Dough, One More Scoop ice cream, KC Whip, Paige's Shaved Ice and The Funnel Cake Man. Initially, Carol had set up food trucks on Wednesday evenings with dinner items such as tacos, BBQ, Greek, and Marigold's but it was decided to cancel these due to not having adequate accommodations for participants to eat a meal (no tables and chairs) and the thought that social distancing might not be possible. We promoted these events via emails and Facebook. We were uncertain if these would be popular and well attended events, but they turned out to be quite successful with several compliments and thank-you's from participants. We have decided to arrange them again in 2022. A suggestion made was to perhaps have fewer trucks in 2022.

We have decided to not organize a 2022 Pancake Breakfast for a variety of reasons including ongoing COVID concerns, past difficulty securing a hospitable location and a workable date.

We will have a Patio Crawl in late spring/early summer, 2022. We'll again use a progressive dinner format. A suggestion made was to use the "Happy Hour" evening time frame and use 4 driveways instead of patios/decks. Regardless of locations, we need to ensure that adequate shaded areas are available in case it is a sunny, hot day.

We will try a new activity on 7/4/2022 – a July 4th bicycle/tricycle Rodeo with July 4th themed decorated bikes/trikes. They will ride on a short, designated route. We expect this to be a somewhat short, easy-to-organize activity. We will give out cold water and red/white/blue popsicles, Flavor ice or bomb pops (sugar free and regular) to participants. Carol W will try to arrange for a representative of the Lion's Club to participate by handing out age-appropriate books. (Info from NEC member, Colette Panchot, Beverly Estates. Lion's Club contact Neal Nichols, pdgneal0708@aol.com)

No discussion yet about other possible 2022 activities such as the Fall Street Meet.

As always, we need more members of this Social Committee. Please encourage neighbors to join and to contact Carol W about the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wagner, Social Committee Chair