

NEWSLETTER

Important Vote Scheduled

Two options, one of which is to dissolve the corporation

The ballot questions:

Option 1— shall we dissolve our nonprofit corporation due to lack of community support and leadership, distributing assets per Article VII of our bylaws.

Option 2— shall we amend our bylaws to change the current membership structure to governance by a board of directors.

Under option 2, members would no longer pay dues or have voting privileges, but **membership would be open to anyone with an interest in Beaumont Village**, resident/landowner or not. We would have our current life members and “supporting members” who want to support the Association financially. We would attempt to recruit and train 3 additional directors (plus current officers) from the community and 3 directors with expertise in the fields of law, finance, architecture, or history. If we were unable to do this within a reasonable time (a year?) the board of directors could dissolve the corporation. Board meetings would be open to the public, for your input and information.

According to our bylaws we must announce a vote at the meeting prior to the scheduled vote (December 6), and we must have a quorum of members in good standing (actually only 5, not counting officers).

Progress Report on Issues

Discussions with the City Continue

Traffic control (4-way stop signs on North Liberty and Maywood), street lighting, historic area signs, code enforcement, and emergency home repairs were topics at a recent meeting M. Kimple had with Martin Livingston and Randall Farr of the city. Our goal is to clarify the process and be able to report to residents. A lighting study has been finished but we have not seen it and the city wants our input. The 4-way stop signs as an answer to traffic problems was recommended by the Clemson study but a study needs to be done before it can go to the city manager and be approved. More info at the meeting Nov. 1.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BEAUMONT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

is published once a month, on or around the 20th, before the regular meeting of the Association (first Thursday of the month, New Testament Church, 6:30 pm) and is distributed free to members and anyone who requests it via email. For home delivery call 585-6465.

Marilyn Graves Kimple, Acting President & Newsletter Editor.

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585-6465.

Dues: \$12 per year for individuals, \$20 per household.
Life Membership \$125



IN THE WORKS...*News & Notes*

- **Beaumont UMC's Annual Hotdog & Bake Sale** will be held October 31st, 10AM-6PM. Call 591-1527 for carry out orders.
- **No Halloween Parade this year.** Have a good time whatever your plans, and stay safe.
- The Beaumont UMC summer music program for kids in the village was a success, and they are now offering **free tutoring** for elementary through high school kids, in partnership with Wofford college students. Space is limited— email Pastor Heidi at BeaumontSpartanburg@gmail.com for further information.
- **Next BVA meeting is November 1**, 6:30 PM at New Testament Church on Gentry. Agenda items include proposed vote and updates on current projects as well as the Public Safety Officer's report. **To register an opinion/comment on the proposed vote in advance of the meeting** (or for any questions or comments about the Association) email the association at bvaspartanburg@gmail.com or call Marilyn Kimple at 585-6465.
- **Now is the time to report it if you know of an area where street lighting is inadequate.** The city has done a study and wants our input. Contact Marilyn Kimple at 585-6465, or email us.
- Meeting agendas are set up beforehand (and approved at the beginning of the meeting) so we will use the time well. There should be time for discussion of agenda items, but you need to get on the agenda if you have an additional issue you want to bring up in a meeting— contact Marilyn at 585-6465.
- **Visit our website at <http://www.beaumontvillage.org>** Click the green button at the bottom right of the webpage to add your email to the list to receive the newsletter and occasional announcements.
- **According to the police report, there was a drug overdose death in the Village in September.** Is this the kind of neighborhood we want? Are there people out there we could help in some way? If the BVA has not been effective in bringing people together is there another option?
- Officer Randy Hardy is our Public Safety Officer, and he will make a monthly report at our BVA meetings. If you need to contact him, call his office at 596-2331 to leave a message and he will automatically get an email. Or call his cell phone at 809-7335. His email address is rhardy@cityofspartanburg.org. **If you have an emergency, call 911. Remember: if in doubt, go ahead and call.**

Calendar

November 1, 2018

Beaumont Village Association;
6:30 - 7:30 PM, New Testament
Church on Gentry Street.

November 6, 2018

**Local and mid-term
elections— VOTE!**

November 21, 2018

Beaumont Village Association;
Executive Board Meeting, 5:30 PM,
789 Maywood Street. Open to
interested members & guests.

November 22, 2018

Happy Thanksgiving

December 6, 2018

Beaumont Village Association;
6:30 - 7:30 PM, New Testament
Church on Gentry Street.
Important vote scheduled.



Stephen B. Cannon, Ph.D., CPCU
President/CEO

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Editorial: *Should we/ can we set up a governing board of directors?*

Here are the facts:

1. The BVA is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit (2016).
2. The organization started years ago as a Neighborhood Watch Group.
3. As we are set up now, members run the organization, and to be a member you must live or own property in the Village and pay \$12 per year (or \$20 per household).
4. There are those who do not live here who have an interest in Beaumont, especially its history as a mill village, who cannot currently be voting members but who support the BVA financially.
5. As evidenced by actual membership (around 10% of those eligible at its peak) as well as meeting and event attendance, the BVA does not have broad support in the neighborhood. This is not a new development.
6. The stated goals of the BVA are to develop positive neighborhood relations, involve residents in planning, develop a safe, kid- and elder friendly environment, preserve historic heritage while promoting community development & revitalization, work with law enforcement, and provide resources.
7. A few individuals have worked hard as officers toward those goals, but we have not been able to enlist broad support or develop additional leadership.
8. We are seriously considering dissolving the corporation for lack of community interest.

It would be a shame, because there are still a lot of people with an interest in Beaumont, as a historic mill village and as a good neighborhood.

One option we may have is to change how we are governed— members no longer pay dues or vote and a governing board of directors made up of residents/interested parties and civic-minded individuals with skills in the areas of law, finance,

architecture, and history. We still need to determine:

1. Can we legally do this?
2. Can we recruit and train people for a board?
3. Could a board plan and implement programs to bring residents and others back together for discussion, informational programs, and social events?
4. or is it time to quit because those of us currently doing the work are worn out and there is not enough interest to go on?

An immediate question is whether we should go forward with membership renewals in January. The prospects do not look good, but we need members to vote on any changes, which is why we need an election in December.

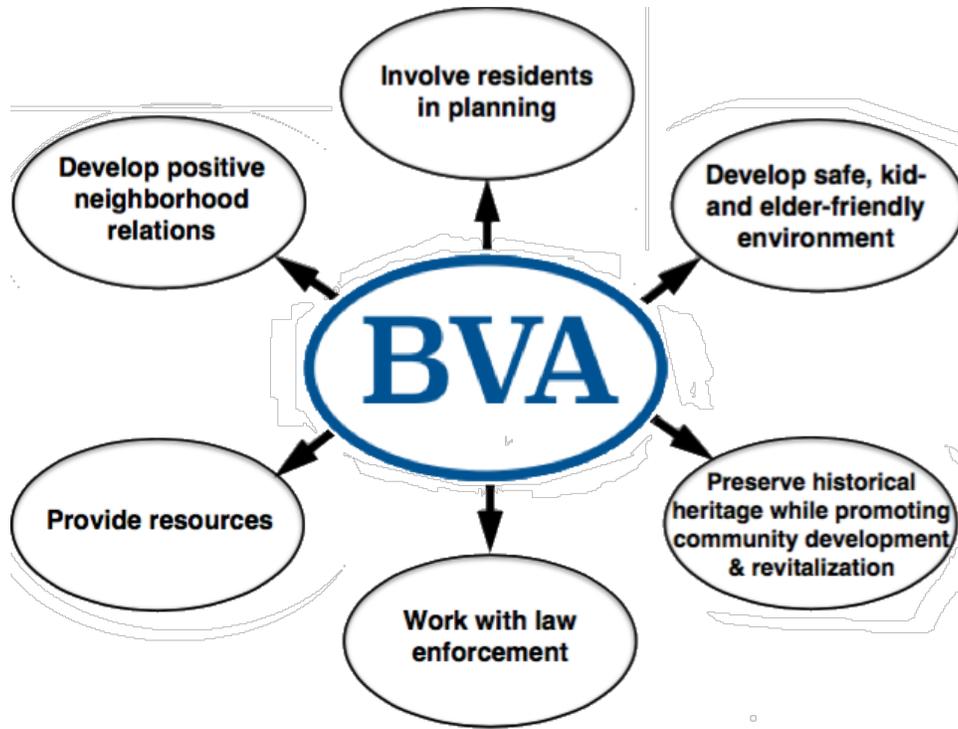
As far as I have been able to determine, and I am still researching it, if we had a governing board of directors:

1. There should ideally be 9 members, with staggered 3-year terms, to include a diverse selection of committed residents and professional people.
2. The board would be self-sustaining, recruiting & electing its own members as terms are up.
3. Board meetings would be open to the public and open for ideas from interested parties. Minutes would be public and the newsletter would continue to report on projects and events.
4. We would no longer have dues-paying, voting members, but anyone could support the Association financially and might be recognized as “supporting members,” “supporters,” or “Friends”.

As I see it, this is a last-ditch effort. If the BVA needs to go away, I say we had worthy goals, it has been fun, and we gave it our best shot.

— *Marilyn Graves Kimple, Editor & Acting President*

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