

# LINCOLN PARK

# BEAVERTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Lincoln Park Historical Society Meeting

Tuesday, February 2nd, 2016

The meeting commenced at 7:31pm in the Lincoln Park Community Room and was chaired by longtime Historical Society member and Chair, George Shanoian.

In attendance were 25 members of the public including Mayor David Runfeldt, Ward I Councilman Gary Gemian, and Patrick Byrne from the Zoning Board. The meeting was recorded by resident Christopher Lotito, de-facto Historical Society Secretary.

After providing a brief history of Lincoln Park and the Historical Society, Mr. Shanoian cited the challenges of the Historical Society as two-fold: First, that there has been a gap in activity since many members have passed on or are otherwise non-attending. Second, that the younger generation appears disinterested in local historic preservation. Mr. Shanoian requested responses from the audience as to their reasons for attending and visions for the Historical Society.

Mr. Shanoian cited his desire to preserve and document local history and especially to get the museum open to the public again. Opening the museum will require volunteer docents as well as skilled volunteers to complete a few renovations.

Councilman Gemian stated that he would like to see the museum back up and running with an additional refresh of the exterior. He would also like to see the downtown revitalized and sees local historic preservation as a part of that process.

Councilman Gemian will act as Liaison between the Council and this organization.

Several residents spoke about their experiences both growing up in the area and moving to Lincoln Park later. No one expressed that they were at the meeting solely for preservation of the Terhune-Benjamin House, though this was a topic of conversation - everyone appeared interested in preserving local history.

Greg Saviello inquired about saving the Terhune-Benjamin House, a historic home located on Main Street which is under threat from development and currently privately owned. Responses were that the Council has no jurisdiction over the site, that the site is not currently under any form of preservation, and that any purchase of the home (were it for sale) would probably take place with matching funds.

Mayor Runfeldt announced that a project is in the works to repair a trail along the Morris Canal as a walking trail in the near future.

Mr. Lotito proposed that the next meeting occur at 7:30pm in the Community Room on Tuesday March 2nd and the motion was passed by general consensus.

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## Announcements:

- Next Meeting - Tuesday March 1st at 7:30pm in the Community Room

2016 Annual Membership Dues is \$5 for individuals or \$10 for a family (household) and they are due. Please make payment to George Shanoian.

Please begin collecting publications and books which describe the history of Lincoln Park. The local reference area in the Lincoln Park Library could benefit from additional materials.

## March Agenda:

- Discuss re-organization: Do we want to elect officers? What form of leadership? If not, do we want an ad-hoc committee? Who speaks for the group.
- Collecting Membership Dues - We will need a Treasurer to keep records (see above).
- Name, Address, Phone? Who are we and how can people reach us?
- Possible formation of a sub-committee to meet and research options for the Terhune-Benjamin House.
- Possible donation drive to get local history reference books for the Lincoln Park Library.
- Meeting Date (conflicts with other local history groups) & Liaisons to other organizations.