

**Minutes of the Barcroft School and Civic League Meeting
March 4, 2010
Barcroft Community House**

Chairperson: Bryant Monroe, President, BSCL

Announcements

Bryant Monroe thanked all volunteers of the Barcroft snow brigade.

Bryant Monroe will follow-up with motions from the February meeting, including a letter in support of CPRO, the resolution related to the realignment of the intersection at S. Buchanan and Four Mile Run, and re-sending the previously-approved BSCL resolution to the Examiner newspaper.

The Alcova Heights neighborhood association will host the National Guard at its April 22 meeting.

The Renovation Committee met earlier tonight. Information on the proposed next phase of renovation will be included in the newsletter. Fundraising will be important.

Andrew Hunter will organize the neighborhood 4th of July parade and picnic. The funding for this important event will be discussed and approved at the April or May meeting.

Treasurer's Report

For the month of February, the BSCL General Fund ended up with a negative \$561 bottom line. This was partially due to the loss of a few rentals during the snowstorms. The last 12 months are in the red by \$1,900.

Community House Renovation Project

The next phase of renovations will focus on the interior of the building. One goal is to restore the ceiling to its original height and condition, removing the false ceiling, while installing improved insulation and sound boards. Ceiling fans and indirect lighting are also to be included. Detailed discussion of the cost and timing will occur at subsequent BSCL meetings.

County Property Assessments

Mack Page from the County Assessment Staff provided an overview of the process used to determine residential assessments. He noted that last year was unusual with the first decline in commercial and residential assessments in many years. Commercial assessments will continue to decline, however, residential assessments are expected to stabilize.

Residential assessments are based on cost, defined as replacement cost less depreciation plus land value. Home sale information is an important component in determining this cost. The most recent residential assessment process included the sales analysis period from July 2008-July 2009. All sales, except foreclosures and estate sales, are included in the analysis. In addition, a

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tear-down is valued as a land sale. When a house is sold, the assessment office compares the sale price to the assessed value and investigates any differences. To do this, the assessment office visits each property sold to verify the parameters about the property.

Another important input is building permits. The assessment office visits properties that have been issued building permits to determine how the assessed value should change. Currently, there is a lag in processing this information – the assessment office is about 2 years behind in assessing permits. However, they typically assess high-value permits first as this has the fastest impact on the tax base.

If the taxpayer disagrees with an assessment, there is an appeal process. Homeowners can check their assessed value online. There is a link to this on the BSCL website.

Upcoming Meeting Topics

April: Police and crime update

May: Vote on Phase IV renovations; BSCL Officer elections

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Lis.