

HWTA Committee Reports for 2021

Architectural Review Committee Report – Jerry Skene, Coordinator. Members: Steven Harper, Sandy Goodman, Dennis Woytowich, Jordan Cohen.

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) continues to review applications from homeowners for the repair and replacement of anything external to their homes that requires Board approval according to the current Architectural Guidelines. Note that when homeowners sell their property, they need to disclose to the buyer that the home is in compliance with these Guidelines, so it is important that they be followed where applicable.

An update to the Architectural Guidelines was completed in July 2021 and is available on the HWTA website [here](#). A number of significant changes were made in this revised document and are discussed in the Introduction.

The ARC conducted a survey of the ten HWTA properties with the lowest overall scores on the previous survey of homes to determine if exterior problems had been addressed. Most were improved. For persistent problems, recommendations on repairs were then sent to the owners of these properties. The ARC will be repeating the survey done in 2019 of all 104 properties in the Association with the intent of helping the owners identify what, if any, repairs are currently or soon will be needed. Individual reports will be sent to each property owner.

Landscape Committee - Rosemary Muir, Coordinator. Members Russ Causey, Migena Dilolli, Nate Archer, Anne Riley, and Krishan Zaveri (Tree Steward). Sandy Peth, advisor.

Thanks to Sandy Peth for her expert leadership of the Landscape Committee and to Russ Causey for leading the landscape contract efforts.

- Three Landscape Committee meetings were held. Landscape information about cicadas and investments in gardens was circulated through *The Happenings* newsletter and the President's Summary of the Board meetings.
- Coordinated with Otterbein to participate in Earth Day on April 24th involving a Clean Up and sharing of information on Cicadas and Mosquitoes - free giveaways and water.
- March of 2021, a security camera was installed at the intersection of South Hanover and Hill Street - part of a grant coordinated by Joe Levy of Otterbein. The City trimmed out some tree limbs to allow better surveillance.

Contracted work

- Ruppert Landscape company conducted general landscape maintenance. The quality was somewhat uneven, due in part to COVID-related staff disruptions. Following intense negotiations, Ruppert was awarded the maintenance contract for the next three years.
- Bartlett Tree removed dead limbs from alley trees in the 500 and 600 blocks of Hanover, and in back of homes on W Lee St. Removed dead/dying trees behind 611 S Hanover and in Conway St. parking lot. A new tree will be planted behind 611 S Hanover. Again this year the River Birch trees on Hill Street walkway were trimmed. Thanks to Krishan Zaveri for

managing this process.

- A snow removal contract was established with Akors for 2022. They held the contract in 2021, this year. Snow was significant enough one time to require snow removal from the parking lots and associated sidewalks.
- Tru-Green was engaged to spray for mosquitoes in the two parks. As the spraying did little to reduce the mosquitoes, it will not be done again.
- A contractor was hired to remove graffiti spray paint from the brick wall in Hughes Street parking lot. Thanks to Doug Peth for quickly handling this, discouraging additional graffiti.

Major Garden Enhancements

- Hill-Hanover Street Garden: Three ferns and 15 native, drought-resistant, butterfly attracting shrubs were added to the ongoing development of the garden (next to 701 S Hanover). Thanks to Nate, Migena, Russ and Sandy for their ongoing efforts to keep these plants watered.
- Hill-Charles Street Garden: In November, ivy was removed and five trees were planted (next to 700 S Charles) where dying trees were removed in 2020. They were and will be watered through coordination of homeowners who are dedicating their time, effort and water - thanks to Liz and Ashley Wolf-Isles and David Washington.

Facilities Committee - Annette Posner, Coordinator.

As COVID-19 continues to be an issue, City offices have not been operating at 100% capacity. As a result, repairs to the brick footpaths disrupted by tree roots remain unaddressed. Efforts continue to have these problems resolved, which involves not only City DOT Footpaths division but also the Forestry division.

- City has replaced the black asphalt patch with concrete on W Hill St at Charles St.
- City made repairs to the brick portion of the alley behind the 600 block of S Hanover St as it merges to W Hill St.
- City is also repairing the broken bricks in the aprons to alleys in the 500 block and 600 blocks of S Hanover St.
- The Department of Parks and Recreation have been contacted about repairing the missing mortar in the footpath in Hanover Square Park, that extends from one end of the park to the other.
- Akors contractors repaired the broken gate at the SW corner of Wheel Park and two sections of fencing, and replaced missing ornamental balls. Sadly, another section of this 40-year old fence now needs repair. It also needs painting, but the City has declined to do this work. Maintenance of this fence will be on the agenda in the coming year.
- Many thanks are due to Jerry Skene, who diagnosed and ultimately fixed the broken light along the footpath by 416 S Hanover Street. Estimates for repairing or replacing the fixture exceeded \$1000.00. With Jerry's knowledge, ingenuity and willingness to help, he repaired the light fixture at a minimal cost. Using his 3D printer, Jerry created the broken fixture and replaced all the mercury vapor bulbs with more efficient LED bulbs, making walkway to and from the Conway St parking lot more welcoming and safer.

Public Safety - Kelly Gleason, Coordinator. Anne Tillinghast an active member.

HWTA continues to monitor neighborhood crime through meetings with police, BPD crime reports, and Facebook reports. Notices regarding preventive strategies are sent out when there is an increase in local crime.

Public safety efforts are focused on increasing community connections, given the power of knowing your neighbors to help prevent and respond to threats. HWTA teamed up with OCA to host the first ever Otterbein Block Party, which included name tags and other efforts to ensure people had a chance to meet new neighbors. We encourage Harbor Walk neighbors to participate in the activities in the larger Federal Hill community.

Social and Welcoming Committee - Rosemary Muir and Sherri Levin, Coordinators. The Welcoming and Social Committees have merged. Many thanks to Anwar Gorham for his years on Welcoming.

In March, Sherri Levin, Anwar Gorham and Rosemary Muir personally greeted ten new neighbors, welcoming them to Harbor Walk, sharing essential information about our community and presenting them with a gift certificate to Morning Mugs on Hughes Street.

There was no Pool Picnic because of COVID restrictions at the Otterbein Pool.

Harbor Walk and the Otterbein Community Association jointly organized the First Annual Otterbein Block Party, held on Saturday, September 18th. The 600 block of S. Hanover and Wheel Park were closed off, decorated and full of over 100 neighbors and activities, including a magician, a comedian, and a raffle of many donated prizes. Thanks to Kelly Gleason, Anne Riley and Anne Tillinghast for their efforts on the Committee with OCA's Gregory Vander Ploeg and Phuong Nguyen. Thanks, too to Jerry and Sally Skene and Dan and Carol Schwartz for their help in greeting neighbors.

The HWTA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 7, both in person at Christ Lutheran Church and virtually. **Again this year, a raffle of four gift certificates to local restaurants will be held among those who returned Board of Director ballots by 12/1/21.**

Webmaster - Jerry Skene, Coordinator.

The HWTA website continues to be monitored and upgraded frequently to ensure its integrity. Jerry updates the Resident Directory and sends out the routine and special emails to residents and/or to homeowners.

Newsletter - Kathy Bradley Coordinator.

Sincere thanks to Kathy for sending out the *Happenings* newsletter every month for the past several years. For many years, the newsletter is opened by less than half of those who received it. The decision was made to retire the *Happenings* newsletter and simply send the President's Summary of the Board meeting via email.