

Notes from the President

I hope everyone recovered from Thanksgiving well enough to give Black Friday a good run. I noticed more businesses chose to carry on the trend from last year and close their doors to give their workers extra family time for the holidays. Now begins the mad sprint to end out 2016 with the respective holidays celebrated throughout the month.

Meeting Cancellation for November – Our monthly Steering Committee meeting fell on Election Day and was cancelled. Our next meeting, December 13th, will again be held at Kenilworth School.

Trap, Neuter, & Release (TNR) – Over the past year, this has been a very contentious topic. A request was made of the previous Steering Committee to fund TNR efforts but was denied. Another request has been brought before the current SC requesting a budget line item be added for \$1500 to support TNR within F.Q. Story. Last month's Story Time gave statistics on the benefits of TNR citing empirical data supporting the process. This month, you will have the other view showing there are just as many statistics to counter the previous argument, making it none the easier to decide. I was contacted by a few neighbors that have expressed strong opposition to the Steering Committee giving any funds to TNR efforts. There is no consensus as to how to move towards dealing with feral cats, and that is why I feel there is a need to reach out to all F.Q. Story and get your opinion. If you would like to weigh in on this subject, please email or call me so the Steering Committee can get a better feel as to the pulse of the neighborhood on this issue. I do ask that opinions be respectful and based on facts, rather than personal bias or attacks.

2016 Home Tour – This month celebrates the 32nd Annual Home Tour. Although we won't have the usual number of homes on display this year, there was no less work to be done. Sometimes overlooked by the huge amount of effort that goes into putting on this event year after year is the hard work and dedication of an amazing group of neighbors that took the time and energy to put on the very first Home Tour in 1984. This group created a unique way to share their love for architecture with the surrounding area and to showcase the need for historic preservation. Four years later, their efforts culminated in the F.Q. Story Neighborhood Historic District, along with some individual homes, being listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The ground work was laid and the torch passed to the latest group of go-getters with the same drive to make our neighborhood a well sought-after visit. When you see one of this year's Home Tour folks, I hope you'll join me in thanking them for again putting on an awesome Home Tour.

Happy Holidays, Happy New Year and as always, thank you for your support. Please contact me if there's anything I can help with.

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