



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 11, 2007

<http://www.mayopia.com/UNITSOUTHHD/UNITSOUTHHD.html>

The entire content is the responsibility of ken and some haphazard research
(Mea culpa)

Jennifer Piorkowski reports that she and Councilman Kraft are scheduled to meet on December 17th with the Assistant Commissioner for Neighborhood Revitalization, to discuss the transfer of the Park from Baltimore City to our 501(c)(4) organization. We hope we're getting closer to completing the purchase to preserve the greenspace and the easement for tenant parking in the eight parking slots which were introduced by the City of Baltimore over thirty years ago in exchange for preserving the greenspace.

I want to thank Nancy West for her recent acknowledgement of personal expenses toward the upkeep of the Park—but I must add that thousands of dollars, in out-of-pocket costs and volunteer labor valued at \$18 per hour, have been put into the park by a few of us—including significant contributions from Nancy herself. The treasury of the Unit South Homestead Houses Inc., a 501(c)(4) non-profit neighborhood organization formed to purchase and maintain the Park, should remain intact until future costs can be estimated and a budget be set. The organization's success depends on the replacement of the posts. Otherwise, bullies will do whatever they want, such as continuing to encroach on spaces paid for by their neighbors. Also, Maryland law requires owners to register their vehicles in the locations where the owners live and the vehicles are kept—and apart from legal considerations it is just unfair to register a City vehicle to an out-of-town address, since City insurance is much more expensive than that of other jurisdictions, and those of us who follow the rules must bear disproportionate costs. To keep our City rates as low as possible, we can tell our insurers we have off-street parking.

Jerry Withers, who is a CPA and has been acting as Treasurer of the Group, has not returned phone calls for weeks, so I can't report whether everyone is up to date with their dues. Luckily, 12 South Durham is the address for the corporation (since I did the original legwork and am listed as the resident agent), so up to now we have been receiving the bank statements here. Our November 30, 2007 statement shows a balance of \$1775—the same as it was in October.

Security Alert: At 1.39 a.m. on the 28th of November, I was working in my studio when I saw headlights in the parking space next door. Since our neighbors never back into their space, I peered out the window and saw a strange vehicle. I walked downstairs and questioned the blonde lady driver. She said she was there to meet a girlfriend—I asked who and where and she couldn't answer—I suggested she was waiting in the wrong place—I took a picture of her in her SUV—she cursed me. I walked back in the house; she threw a glass bottle at the house and it broke. Fortunately, she did leave. A short time later the neighbors came home and parked in their usual manner. My point is that there is a history of strangers parking in our alley, going around the corner to do a drug deal or what have you, and then driving away. If we do not watch out for the familiar vehicles in our tiny block things could fall apart quite rapidly. Please don't take your space for granted; let's all keep the park clean and the spaces local.

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