

KMCA Housing Committee
Minutes from meeting on 8/11/08

Attendance:

Jonathan Fink (Chair)
Louis Paley
Ariel Winter
Michael Auslin

The meeting convened at 8:05 pm. Jonathan described the purpose of the committee as developing tools to help Kemp Mill residents deal with houses that have more residents than are legally allowed, abandoned homes, and other housing code violations. We would put together a toolkit with information on how to address these issues (e.g., which County office to call). If individual residents are unsuccessful at getting the County to take action, the housing committee or board could get involved.

Ideas for disseminating the toolkit were discussed, such as posting it on the KMCA website, putting it on a laminated card (perhaps getting a local real estate agent to sponsor the card), publishing it in the newsletter, and distributing it at KMCA meetings.

Various issues were proposed for inclusion in the toolkit, including:

- Dealing with cars or bushes that obstruct sidewalks
- Parking a car on the grass between the street and the sidewalk (on the County right of way)
- Parking large trucks on the street or driveways
- Unauthorized home improvements
- Failure to cut grass
- Noise
- Failure to abate pests
- Junk cars in driveways
- Vacant homes
- Assistance for people facing foreclosure (the County offers workshops)

Jonathan noted that he'd found information on the County website about most of these issues. The County has an online complaint form for code violations. It was asked whether this form can be submitted anonymously. We agreed to ask residents about other problems that need to be addressed. Louis proposed creating a table that displays what type of activity is allowed vs. prohibited (e.g., parking a truck).

Jonathan will contact the Civic Federation to ask if they have a list of information. Ariel will see if the County could send a speaker to discuss these issues at a future KMCA meeting. Michael will call the Housing code office to ask if houses can be subdivided and rented to multiple dwellers if the owner does not live in the home. Michael felt that the board should communicate directly with the County about illegal rental arrangements. We will ask residents to copy the committee when they submit complaints to the County,

so we can keep track of issues. If the KMCA sends a formal letter, it should come from the president.

Jonathan agreed to make a committee report at the Sept. 10 KMCA meeting and provide a preliminary version of the toolkit to members who attend. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.