

1. **Attendance** – Leslie Caruso, Matt McKeegan, Alan Miroslaw, Mary Ann Ogle, Will Pearce, Chris Rule, Lis Rundle, Ron Sears, Brittany Smith, Drew Barnes, Max Wright, Erin Zelinski
2. **Review/Approve prior month's minutes** – *Mary Ann motion, Will second, passed.*
3. **Treasurer's Report**
  - **Operations FYE 2025**
    - Matt sent the P&L reports and reconciliation forms for the CHCA accounts (Checking, Savings, and Money Market Savings) for December 2025. The account balances are Checking ~\$1,244, Money Market Savings ~\$18,271, and Savings ~\$976.
  - **Fund Balance**
    - Matt noted we had a small loss of \$31.52 across the three accounts from 2024 to 2025, and that the balances remained steady, totaling \$20,491.
    - Matt sent the proposed 2026 budget plan, which he based on 3–4-year trends, excluding pandemic anomalies. He noted that the expenses for all events have increased, so he increased the event budgets and proposed cutting \$1,000 from scholarships, setting the scholarship allocation at \$5,000, with the potential for an additional \$1,000 from Roof Detective. He also noted that due to the change in the 5K race provider, we anticipate a significant increase in cost for the 5K race, approximately triple. Matt projected that adopting the outlined budget would leave us up \$85 for 2026. The group agreed to ratify the proposed budget next month, during the February CHCA meeting.
    - Matt also shared confirmation of his submission of the 2025 annual report for the Colonial Hills Civic Association School & Scholarship Fund.
    - Leslie asked how membership balances were affecting the financials. Matt explained that membership dues traditionally represent about one-third of the CHCA's income and that the 5K race funds were a major contributor to our income last year. Matt suggested increasing the 5K race fees by \$5-\$10 per person. Chris agreed with the proposal, noting that the CHCA's race is still inexpensive compared to other local races. Chris also noted that there is capacity to expand Courier advertising and committed to contacting ten businesses. Matt suggested including a CHCA-sponsored ad in the Courier to encourage businesses to contact the Treasurer regarding advertising or sponsorship opportunities.
    - The group chimed in, noting that the 5K race, with record participation, helped stabilize last year's finances, and that the Fourth of July event and the 5K race combined typically break even or run a slight deficit. Erin noted that the Holiday Party cost nearly double due to paying for Santa and suggested increasing the sponsorship rate from \$250 to \$500. Matt said he would reach out to Luke's, who have previously expressed interest in sponsorship, and confirmed he would follow up on the 5K race pricing. Matt also noted that reducing the Courier to four issues per year should save money.
    - Chris shared his opinion, that the CHCA is in good financial health, and it may be acceptable to run slightly negative temporarily rather than decreasing the scholarship budget immediately. Matt suggested waiting to see where we land with the income from the Courier ads/sponsors before deciding.
    - Alan proposed using the tent, already set up in the park a few days before the Fourth of July event, for a movie or game night, charging a small entry fee. The group liked the idea of a family-friendly film on the Friday before the Fourth of July. Ron suggested adding popcorn sales.
4. **2026 Calendar Magnet**
  - Leslie thanked Will for his help with the calendar and confirmed that Cynthia will sponsor the 2026 magnet. Leslie noted that we need to finalize the color choices for Cynthia. The goal is to mail the magnet with the upcoming Courier.

## 5. Courier #1 for 2026

- Chris said he will restructure the Courier content into four issues by Sunday. He also said he will request articles within the next week. Will has already sent four articles to Chris.
- Erin, who chaired the Holiday Party, recapped her experience. She noted that attendance was low, but the kids who came stayed for a long time. She explained that the weather was bad throughout the weekend and Sunday was especially cold. Erin added that she has leftover supplies, which should help reduce costs for next year's party. Chris volunteered to be Santa if needed. Erin also wanted to recognize two volunteers from the event, **Sean Roche** and **Frankie Scardina**. The group extended a big thank-you to the volunteers, as well as to Erin and Michele, for braving the weather and keeping the holiday spirit going!

## 6. Upcoming Events

- **Buddy Box Packing Event (TBD)**
  - Alan said he will reach out to Emily regarding the 2026 Buddy Box Packaging Event. The group noted it took place during the summer last year, likely in August.
- **Egg Stuffing (3.21.26)**
  - Leslie said we have a volunteer for the Egg Stuffing, but Annie is looking for a co-chair. Mary Ann said she will coordinate getting the Easter Bunny, and Will said he will set up the course for the hunt. The group noted the event entails ordering supplies, assembling baskets, and filling the eggs, with about 1,700 pieces of candy needed for the hunt. Alan mentioned that preparing the gift baskets—about twenty total, five per lane—may be challenging. Erin offered to help purchase the items and asked Alan to send her links for age-specific toys. She also noted that she can be thrifty.
- **Easter Egg Hunt (3.28.26)**
  - See notes in the section above.

## 7. Public Comments

- Ron said the Planning Department will publish the MPC (Municipal Planning Committee)/ARB (Architecture Review Board) agenda on Friday for the meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Boundless and Elford are expected to give a presentation. Leslie expressed that she hopes to see signs with information posted throughout the neighborhood. The group summarized that the primary concern is the potential traffic impact on 161 and routes within the neighborhood. Ron and Mary Ann noted that they plan to summarize the concern on CHAT and hope to put signs up early next week, with the possibility of posting notices on doors. Will confirmed that the CHCA does not need to approve the content on CHAT.
- Drew suggested promoting the 5K race on social media one month in advance to attract more runners and sponsors. Max announced that the Instagram account is now active and linked to the email address Alan provided. He noted that he has been making the account visible to Worthington-area communities, as recommended. Max said he will email Will to set up shared access with Alan. Max shared that he finds the CHCA website difficult to view on his phone because it appears more like a text file. He offered to recruit people to help redesign the website. Will confirmed he is aware of the concern, explaining that the site uses WordPress. While WordPress has its benefits, being free and easy to maintain, its format creates challenges for mobile viewing because the site design has two panes. Will noted that the backend is more sophisticated, using PHP scripts to store archives and other data, and the site is backed up daily. Updating these scripts would require major work, as the last update was in 2021. In short, his view is that the website still serves its purpose well as an administrative tool that archives 15 years of CHCA history. Alan suggested creating a secondary, mobile-friendly bulletin focused on current events to address the viewing concern. Will noted that maintaining a secondary domain should be simple and minimally demanding. Ron asked whether Drew and Max would be interested in helping with the CHAT site. Drew and Max confirmed they were interested.

- Note: After the meeting, Will reported that he had reviewed the browser renderings on both his PC and smartphone for the City of Worthington and Worthington City Schools websites, compared to the renderings of our CHCA's website, which was designed 15 years ago for PC viewing, rather than for the approximately 75% of people who now view websites with their smartphones. Accordingly, Will plans during the next month to re-develop much of the non-document-archival portion of our website using a single-pane, smart-phone friendly WordPress theme, with more eye-catching components for these portions of the website.

**8. Adjourn-** *Mary Ann motion, Leslie second.*