



## Ardencroft 75th Anniversary Special Committee Minutes

12/5/24 at 7:30pm, Buzz Ware Village Center

### Ardencroft 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Committee Minutes

Meeting: Thursday 12/05/2024 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM ET @ Buzz Ware Village Center

Attendance: Kathleen J, Pat M, Jenn A, Dan R

| Agenda Items           | Notes  | Action Items  |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Historical sign update | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Original draft from Public Archives/Historical Signs was generic and without consideration for Ardencroft's founding as related to cultural changes</li><li>• Including two alternatives provided:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ardencroft incorporated in 1950 as a leasehold community, "sister" to land trusts Arden (1900) and Ardentown (1922). Distinguished by the premise of Founder, Don Stephens: "'You Are Welcome Hither,' for here in Ardencroft we do not ask about a man's religion nor his belief nor do we hold any theory of racial superiority." Newspapers at the time heralded. "Racial Restrictions Waived in New Single Tax Village." Several minority families moved into Ardencroft soon thereafter. In response, Claymont H.S. admitted their children in 1952, before the 1954 Brown v Board decision desegregating public schools.</li><li>2. Founded in 1950 as a non-profit corporation, Ardencroft is a leasehold community, "sister" to land trusts Arden (1900) and Ardentown (1922). Uniquely, Ardencroft was established seeking religious and racial integration in co-founder Don Stephen's words: "'You Are</li></ol></li></ul> | Follow for updates and will consider sign efforts separate from any summertime event due to timeline issues |

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|  | <p>Welcome Hither,' for here in Ardencroft we do not ask about a man's religions nor his belief nor do we hold any theory of racial superiority." Newspapers then heralded: "Racial Restrictions Waived in New Single Tax Village." As minority families moved into Ardencroft, children here helped desegregate Claymont High School in 19520, two years prior to nationwide Brown v Board of Education in 1954</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign creation will take 8-9 months, plus the time it takes for placement. As such, will not plan for sign being available for any initial anniversary celebrations – big thanks to Pat for the work related to this.</li> <li>• Please note, public works is doing the Pauline A. Young sign – waiting to hear about ORPT/DelRec grant by early 01/2025</li> </ul> |   |
| Museum update as relates to Ardencroft Anniversary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items needed for the ACSM Ardencroft 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Photos, letters, personal items related to the early families in Ardencroft</li> <li>○ Anything related to the Arden School regarding Ardencroft residents, in particular related to racial integration</li> <li>○ Physical objects like signs, street signs, posters, and anything else specifically Ardencroft</li> <li>○ Artworks from Ardencroft artists past and present</li> </ul> </li> <li>• For insight into Ardencroft history, learned about older Ardencroft deeds that are being</li> </ul>  | <p>Coordinate to try and send out this notice via the <i>Arden Page</i> and possibly via an email update from Chair. Will also relay at next Village meeting.</p> <p>Jenn to try and check with Wyn about the original old paper deeds; can compile the deeds to possible find families originally residing in Ardencroft</p> |

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|                       | <p>digitized, but kept at the Buzz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also looked at photos and documents reviewed used in the Ardencroft logo generation presentation</li> </ul>   |  |
| Oral histories update | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kathleen (thank you Kathleen!) shared helpful documents from the museum including what it used for its release/consent, suggested questions, and general format to follow</li> <li>We'll look to modify for Ardencroft's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</li> <li>Continued efforts brainstorming how to find people with insights related to Ardencroft to possibly share via an oral history if willing</li> </ul> | <p>At next meeting, will start to update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consent/release of information &amp; donor form</li> <li>Suggested interview template</li> <li>List of individuals to approach</li> </ul> |
| Event planning        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued target of a summertime event</li> </ul>  | <p>Brainstorm and begin to plan at January 2025 meeting with full group</p>  |
| Next meeting          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scheduled for <b>Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> 7 PM @ Buzz Ware Village Center</b></li> <li>Will try to keep monthly cadence to stay ahead of possible summertime event(s)</li> </ul>   |  |