



Mike Wells

Resident of Glynn Road

Tell us about yourself

I was born in Dayton Ohio. I received a BA in history from Wright State University and an MA and PhD from Ohio State University. We moved to Cleveland in 1977 so I could take a position at Cleveland State University. I have held several positions there, and I retired in 2010 and am emeritus faculty in the Levin College of Urban Studies. I continue to teach part-time. My passions are book collecting and reading, studying Latin and ancient Greek. For enjoyment, I have part-time at Appletree Books. My wife and I enjoy travel, especially abroad. We also enjoy films and theater and are frequently at Cedar Lee Theater.

How long have you lived in Forest Hill? Why did you move here?

We moved to our house on Glynn Rd. in 1990, because it was beautiful and well constructed. It also had a double lot. We had looked at over 100 houses over several years with our patient realtor. She heard about this house just as it was listed, and we rushed over. We knew right away that this was the one. We knew about Forest Hill & its history; we were not strangers to its beauty and charm. It was a short commute to our job at CWRU and CSU. We knew we were moving into East Cleveland but things were not as bad then and we ha hope. Our street was lovely and our neighbors friendly. We have hosted and helped plan several block parties. We love the mature trees and great variety of houses. Many people take great pride in maintaining their house and yards and it is a pleasure to walk around most of the streets.

Why do you want to be a trustee?

When we bought our house we were told that Glynn Rd. was not officially part of FHHO, Inc. This, of course, as with other FHHO, Inc. determinations about governance was wrong. The 1950 HOA Charter is clear that Glynn Rd. is a member street, while the organization's bylaws stipulate the mechanics for open nominations and elections that have not been followed for many years. i want an HOA managed according to our Charter, bylaws, and the Ohio Revised Code. I also want an HOA willing to explore securing an IRS 501 (c) (3) designation for tax deductible donations and for securing grants (doable). I want an HOA willing to use the deed covenants and the law to mitigate housing decline. FHHO, Inc. made an attempt at this last in 2014/15 and then dismantled its own Action Committee before it could continue its initial success. FHHO, Inc. is good at saying it cannot be done. I want an HOA that says we can do it and do it with enthusiasm.

What will be your neighborhood focus as a trustee?

My focus as a trustee is on the whole of FH as my neighborhood. It is that we have a board of trustee-driven organization, where the board makes policy, sets goals, and informs the officers of decision-making boundaries. It is the board that should appoint the officers and tell them what to do, not the other way around. Meeting and greeting newcomers is a responsibility for all FH homeowners. Board members can be the face of the HOA here. Neighborhood handouts can be done by interns, paid or not. I want to be trustees to come together more than twice a year and be able to think about FH and its relationships with the rest of NE Ohio and be able to secure professional expertise where needed. Tremont and ohio City have these attributes. Why not FH? FHHO, Inc. personnel should be proactive, open to change, open to access, and open to criticism. i will be such a person.