

Carderock Springs Citizens' Association
July 20, 2020
Held via Web Meeting due to Covid-19
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Jack Orrick, Ashish Goel, Jenny Spreitzer, Tom Deyo, Firooz Gidfar, Petra Jacobs, Sue Eastman, Gary Ratner

Board member absent: Bill Draper

Community members present: Ken Hinga, Sarah Bennett, Howard Evoy, Scott Wilets

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm by Jack Orrick

1. Approval of June Board meeting minutes
2. Treasurer's report
3. Replacement/refurbishing entrance signs
4. Issuance of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for I-495 Beltway widening; next steps including follow-up with County and State legislators; hiring consultant
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Next Meeting – September 21 (no August meeting); Newsletter deadline

Item 1: Approval of June Board meeting minutes

Approved.

Item 2: Treasurer's report

Ashish mailed 260 dues notices on July 20. These cost about \$150 to send. A few other minor expenses (welcoming packet, electricity) were paid during the month. CSCA has approximately \$29-30,000 in our checking account: expenses remain below budget for the year because we haven't held our usual in-person events. Our main expense is the newsletter, which costs about \$400 per newsletter to print and deliver. D&O Insurance has cost \$1,125 per year. Ashish is getting a quote from another company to see if we can do better.

Item 3: Replacing/refurbishing entrance signs

Ken Hinga, community member, has surveyed the Carderock signs for us to consider incorporating our new branding. Priority: Persimmon Tree/Lily Stone and River Road/Carderock Drive sign: goal would be to include National Register of Historic Places and logo/branding. There are a few other signs we could look at but they are not a priority. Ken suggested a NRHP (National Register of Historic Places) sign to go at each of 5 places, perhaps on a standalone post (he suggested the CS mailbox design). It would be nice to standardize these with something that stands out. Most of the signs could be cleaned up and made more high contrast and legible by

painting or staining them brown and painting the letters white. There might be some stonework to do too. Bob Stocker put the NRHP plaque on many years ago, so we can check with him on the source. Ashish also found this list of vendors:

<https://www.crt.state.la.us/Assets/OCD/hp/nationalregister/nominationpacket/NationalRegisterPlagues.pdf>.

Jack believes we should start with the larger, more visible signs and then proceed to the knob and other signs. We should avoid putting up signs on private property. Ashish suggested that we designate a project manager: Ken's happy to do some exploratory work but he can't take on the management role, especially checking with the county and any property owners. Sue has volunteered to take on the role. We agreed to work on the large signs that already exist first. Ken would be happy to help with basics. Ken could look for sign makers who could make a new sign (to same dimensions) for River Road sign. Sue and Ken will get the project going and have a firmer plan by September. The other signs, Jack believes, are on private property. We will speak with the Club to see if they're willing to contribute to the refurbishment of the signs that are linked to the club. It would be worth remaking the one in an odd font at Carderock Springs Drive and Fenway. We also need to look into pruning around the signs.

Item 4: Issuance of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for I-495 Beltway widening; next steps including follow-up with County and State legislators; hiring consultant

VHB proposal received – VHB was recommended as a firm that could help us. Jack, Tom and Sarah Bennett spoke with VHB for an hour and concluded that they seem to be well qualified to do the work. Drew Morrison would be involved: he used to work for the county and is already familiar with and interested in Beltway expansion. This is our best chance to go on the record and make a difference since this is the time when all the cooperating agencies are working together. After this the project moves immediately into defining the Requirements of the project, which would include sound barriers. VHB would help us pinpoint where we want to spend our time and money. This is our chance to get on record with our requests. They mentioned opportunity areas to challenge the DEIS, such as our National Register Listing and Section 4F, where the school is apparently missing. VHB questioned too whether the Limit of Disturbance is adequately drawn on the plans. Jack had a follow-up discussion with Drew and VHB submitted a proposal for \$9,600 including many elements. They implied that the scope would include all of these items—this would take us through October 8. We would like to know if the CSES PTA (or Educational Foundation) could help fund some of the costs. Sarah will ask the PTA (but PTA has rules) and the Foundation (but Foundation fundraiser had to be canceled this year). She believes the school PTA will be happy to write a letter of support. Petra thinks we might already have a letter from the PTA. We need to ask VHB why the 4F part was missed. Can the Educational Foundation contribute to the 4F analysis? Tom proposed that if the price is nominal and this analysis will help our case, we should make sure it's included.

Jack would like authorization to go back to VHB after we all look at the proposal and send revisions/comments. Tom moved to give Jack the authority to proceed. VHB implied the letter would be ready to submit by October 6th. Petra thinks it is important for Carderock Springs to testify at a public hearing: she will sign us up. Even if we don't have the letter finalized, we will

have the bullet point list available (August/early September). Mark Korman said that the District 16 delegates would support a letter but want to do their own analysis first.

Ashish asked what the cumulative amount is that we think we will spend: Jack hopes that the \$9,600 is all that we will spend. Tom said that there might be a bit more to spend when we get the final draft. The Impact Statement that came out does seem to bolster our request: i.e. sound barriers are reasonable and feasible. We want to make it difficult for the state to backtrack on their commitments. We said initially that we would spend up to \$25,000 if necessary. Tom believes that this money will be well spent if it results in millions of dollars in benefits.

Item 5: Old Business – Design Guidelines, Beltway widening project; Montgomery Quiet Skies

- ARC Design Guideline Revisions: Sue had a suggestion about making sure that “contributing” and “non-contributing” guidance be included in the revisions. The board agreed.

Item 6: New Business

We won't be able to do a Newcomers' welcome this year in person. Should we do a virtual newcomers' meeting? Or it could be outdoors with masks required? We could ask the club about using the picnic area or the tennis courts. It's unknown what the requirements will be. It seems like there will be a lot of families. We will get input from Craig Stoltz. Ashish would support something virtual because there's so much uncertainty. We could do a larger celebration next year hopefully. Jack will move forward with Craig, Leann and Larry at the club.

Item 7: Next Meeting date/Newsletter deadline

Next meeting: September 21; no meeting in August.
Newsletter: Next one will be published in September.

Adjourned 8:52 pm