

Carderock Springs Citizens' Association
January 13, 2020
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Jack Orrick, Ashish Goel, Jenny Spreitzer, Tom Deyo, Petra Jacobs, Bill Draper, Sue Eastman

Community members present: Katherine Stifel, Caroline Pennypacker, Howard Evoy, Marci Greenstein, Elaine Honig, Karen Ringo, Tjaart Schillhorn, Karla Schillhorn, Jim Delaney

Meeting called to order at 7:34 by Jack Orrick

- 1) Approval of November Board meeting minutes
- 2) Treasurer's Report
- 3) Update on Beltway Expansion – Board of Public Works Vote
- 4) Neighborhood Security
- 5) Recent Electrical Fire on Glenmore Spring Way
- 6) Procedure for 2020 Dues
- 7) Meeting with MNCPPC and Soltesz on Congressional Country Club Golf Course Regrading and Stream Replanting
- 8) Schedule for 2020 CSCA Events
- 9) New Business
- 10) Next Meeting and Newsletter Dates

Item 1: Minutes

November minutes were approved.

Item 2: Treasurer's Report – Year End 2019

Our goal for contingency savings at the end of each year is 30% of dues, which would be \$4,350 for 2019. We currently have an excess after budgetary spending of \$3,500. Tom noted that annual operating costs are about \$13,000 and suggested that we should have a policy of taking Operating Account down to \$12,000 at the end of each year. Funds over \$12,000 would be put in the money market fund and then moved to our CD when it comes due. It was moved and approved that we would do this.

Item 3: Update on Beltway Expansion – Board of Public Works vote

The Maryland Board of Public Works (BPW) voted to approve P3 process with an amendment regarding where work would start: work will start at the American Legion bridge, Carderock's stretch of the Beltway (i.e western, over to 270 up to 370). Later phases will have to be approved separately. Does this include authorization for toll lanes and does it need to stay within the right

of way? Petra spoke with SHA: they have been authorized to bid the project, but it's a bit unclear what exactly will be bid. Petra pointed out the inconsistency on "within the right of way" statements being made by Montgomery County elected officials and the Board of Public Works, which has not made this claim.

Per Katherine Stifel, even adding one lane on each side would bring the highway very close, causing loss of property value and disruption for years. What should our next steps as a community be? Suggestions included:

- Go to addresses effected (i.e. those who received letters about surveying), put letters in their mailboxes, and get people organized
- Produce a flyer and put an article in the newsletter.
- Recruit more active neighbors in the Working Group.
- Meet with Marc Elrich, Marc Korman, Andrew Friedson, Sara Love and At Large representatives.

Timing

- Request For Qualification relating to general plan is supposed to come out in February. Qualified proposers will be asked for Draft Request for Proposals, which will get into detail, in July. Long Proposals due 2021.
- Jack thinks APRIL would be a good time for us to meet with group of reps. Others think earlier: February. Agreed to arrange for April meeting(s) on their calendar now and with a smaller community group, have a meeting more immediately with Korman and Friedson et al. Also include Chief Administrative Officer for Marc Elrich. There was discussion about whether the State Highway Administration should be involved in this meeting and group consensus was that they should not be.

Next Steps

- Immediately: Write letter to Elrich, Friedson, Korman and Hucker to let them know that what they're saying about right of way is not supported by BPW approval.
- Article in January newsletter describing urgent need for greater community involvement now.
- Produce flyer for addresses that will be directly impacted (will either lose land or be directly adjacent to construction). The flyer will stress the need for active involvement now. We can follow up with emails, if we know who the people are.
- Carderock Springs Elementary School: contact the principal and MCPS; get the PTA involved, let them know how the project will impact the school.

Item 4: Neighborhood Security

A destructive day-time burglary in the neighborhood prompted fear and much conversation on the CS-chat in the month of January. We don't want to become "that neighborhood" where it's easy to break into cars and homes. As a board, we can remind people of good practices via the newsletter and also perhaps invite the Montgomery County police officer dedicated to neighborhood safety to speak at one of our meetings.

Next steps: Jenny will write an article for the January newsletter.

Item 5: Recent Electrical fire on Glenmore Spring Way

The 5th electrical fire in 12 years occurred at 2 AM on December 16 on Glenmore Spring Way. All of these fires have happened within 500 feet of each other. This one included a major explosion. Sue reported that Pepco is out of compliance with our settlement: they are required to notify us within 10 days of an incident. Michal Freedhof wrote a letter to Pepco asking for testing and/or information.

Next step: We are waiting to see how the Maryland Office of Peoples' Counsel responds to the latest event. [Sue, is this correct?]

Item 6: Procedure for 2020 Dues statements

Bill, Ashish and Jack have been discussing the following procedure: 1) use email as first pass for soliciting renewals; then 2) send out letters via USPS to everyone who hasn't renewed via email option. Ashish suggested adding other payment options such as Venmo and it was agreed to do this. Payment options will be: PayPal and Venmo digitally; Check via mail. [Ashish, is this correct?]

Updating directory: many people check in and make updates when we remind them. Bill will be in charge of continuing with reminders.

Next Steps: Conduct USPS renewal mailing in February; Bill will continue with reminders to update information online.

Item 7: Followup Regarding meeting with MNCPPC and Soltesz on Congressional Country Club Golf Course Regrading and Stream Replanting

Most of Congressional Country Club has been clear cut. We're concerned that more water and a higher velocity of water will be going down to the stream underneath Fenway Road. The county says they have already made Congressional do what it was required to do. But Parks & Planning have yet to let us know what will be done to help the stream and our community.

Item 8: Schedule for 2020 CSCA Events

- March 15: International Dinner Potluck at the club
- May: Progressive Dinner timing TBD.

Item 9: New Business

We need to form a nomination committee for the next board election, which will occur in April. We will discuss in February.

Item 10: Next Meeting Date and Newsletter deadline

- Feb 17 for meeting
- January 24 newsletter deadline

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.