

Carderock Springs Citizens' Association
November 16, 2020
Held via Web Meeting due to Covid-19
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Bill Draper, Firooz Gidfar

Community members present: Joi Grieg, Charlie Heidlage, Robert Stern

Meeting called to order at 7:34 pm by Jack Orrick

1. Approval of October Board meeting minutes
2. Treasurer's report
3. 2021 Budget
4. Replacement/refurbishing entrance signs – status
5. Congressional Country Club sediment control
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Next Meeting – January 18, 2021; no Newsletter until late January/early February

Item 1: Approval of October Board meeting minutes

October – a few names to correct and Jack will send some clarification for the second paragraph under Item 3 Sign Replacement. Minutes were approved pending these changes.

Item 2: Treasurer's Report

5 more dues received, 358 households joined for the year. Charge for directors and officers insurance premium this month: \$1,170 for the year paid, \$45 increase in premium over year before. Small charges for welcome packet, website, newsletter distribution. \$832 in anticipated expenses for the rest of the year.

2020 actuals: slated to put approximately \$4,000 in the contingency fund. Jack suggests that we move full contingency into savings: \$5,244 total. Ashish will add this amount to the CD that matures in February.

Spending is more or less the same this year as last year, but we have taken in more dues, so Tom noted that our income on the November Financial report should be up \$5,000 due to increased dues paid. Ashish found that the January number for 2020 is incorrect. 1/1/20 number should be \$17,718.62. He will share revised Report.

Action Item: Ashish will share corrected Treasurer's Report for November.

Item 3: 2021 Budget Discussion

We reviewed 2020 spending and discussed adopting the following for the 2021 Budget:

- Estimate dues at \$1,000 higher than 2000 budget of \$15,000 (this is a conservative estimate)
- Annual dues collection costs: reduce \$700 to \$500
- Bring Pepco budget down to \$480 due to lighting savings
- Printed Directory: we hadn't planned to print next year but we can ask A to Z what it would cost to print in 2021 due to high turnover in community. If A to Z is willing to do it for free or very little cost, we could print next year. Jack will speak with A to Z rep to see. Put \$1,500 in as a place holder for now.
- Committee Expenses: \$1,000 for welcome/social
- West Montgomery County Citizens Association dues: Ashish hasn't paid because he hasn't seen anything. Jack will look for the most recent newsletter. Will budget \$200 for next year.
- Beltway widening: Tom thinks we should add something here. We don't have a good indication of what Phase 2 comments will cost, however the Programmatic Agreement is due in 2021 so we should be prepared. Will put in \$3,500 as a place holder.
- Branding: change to zero for 2021
- Sign Upgrade Project: \$5,000 to cover the sign replacement and professional painting

If we do all of these things, we will spend approximately \$2,000 more than we take in for the year and will not be able to contribute to our Contingency Fund for the year. We will work with these assumptions for now but won't finalize at this meeting.

Action Items

- Jack will speak with A to Z rep about cost of printing Directory in 2021.
- Jack will look for the most recent Association newsletter; Ashish will pay dues if necessary.

Item 4: Replacing/refurbishing entrance signs

We received estimates for two new signs indicating National Register listing will go next to two existing signs (at River Road and Persimmon Tree Lane); repainting of sign at Lilly Stone and Persimmon Tree Lane. Jack reported in October that we would need County approval – neither of these signs will be in County Right of Way, so Department of Permitting services needs to clarify final approval. Jack is waiting for final word on this.

Estimates: the wood ones will cost less but require painting and maintenance. Ken also provided a quote for new sign (with better lettering) for River Road sign: \$1,165. Could we do a polyurethane sign here? All of this would total under \$5,000. Ashish got a quote for 2 signs that was only \$1,000 plus shipping total. Need to make sure we are comparing similar signs. We

agreed as a Board that it would be best to proceed with polyurethane signs since they will require less maintenance over time. We will aim to have a decision made about which sign maker to go with and do the work as soon as possible in 2021, but this will depend on county signoff.

Installation costs are unknown but we will aim to keep them low. Bill Draper and Jonathan Blythe have volunteered to help install the signs. Linda Engel might agree to having the Persimmon Tree sign painted brown and would like to discuss lighting. We discussed this lighting briefly: wiring would be the problem. Need to research this more.

Action Items

- Jack will monitor/oversee Permitting for signs
- Ashish and Sue/Ken will confer on refinement of the bids, particularly on polyurethane signs
- Ashish (and Ken?) will get a quote on a polyurethane replacement sign for River Road
- Lighting: Ashish agreed to take a look at the current lighting and propose possible solution to direct more light onto the sign.

Item 5: Congressional Country Club Sediment Control

There was a lot of sediment runoff at the last major rain in the stream running under the Fenway/Carderock Springs Drive underpass. Jack, Jennifer Hughes and Lisa Deyo met with the Department of Permitting Services (DPS) to discuss. It seems that one of the sediment control traps overflowed from Congressional. This trap is scheduled to be removed in December once Congressional has placed sod over bare earth. At this time, DPS will no longer be involved. We are trying to schedule a meeting with National Capital Park & Planning Commission because they enforce the forest conservation plan which includes plantings in the stream buffer. They will also implement the stream restoration project that is due to be funded by a \$800,000+ payment made by Congressional as a condition to obtaining their permission to mass grade the site.

Item 6: Old Business

Daffodil Planting

- Thanks to Anne Carlson, over 400 yellow daffodils were planted this fall in the neighborhood with funding from the CSCA. The bulbs were planted along the guardrail on Fenway Road where the road collapsed, at the intersection of Lilly Stone Drive and Persimmon Tree Lane and at the intersection of Lilly Stone Drive and Seven Locks Road. Daffodils will be planted in South Carderock Springs next year, after the sign is replaced (following the recent car crash destruction). The cost was \$230.

Beltway Expansion

- The next milestone in the process is the Board of Public Works meeting scheduled for May. We will need to advocate in advance of this. Jack thinks it unlikely that the meeting will be held in May – thinks it might be another year at least. But worst case scenario is May 2021.

Quiet Skies

- ABCx2 consultant for Arlington and Montgomery counties produced a proposal to spread the air traffic more fairly across the region. Montgomery and Arlington counties submitted this to the DCA Working Group which meets monthly at the DC Airport. They need to approve the ABCx2 proposal. Petra will ask if there's an executive summary and share with us if there is.

Action Item: Petra to see if ABCx2 Proposal Summary is available and distribute.

Crosswalk on River Road at Carderock Springs Drive

- Jack forwarded the report from the Hearing Examiner of the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings relating to the Artis facility approval to John Carlson about the County's denial regarding the need for traffic calming at this site. Next step is to contact Artis to see if they would like to work with us. Gary suggested that we find out the state criteria for installing: Jack says the document contains some of this information. Jack and Gary will discuss.

Action Item: Jack to share report with Gary and discuss next steps.

Item 7: New Business

Sue discussed county deer population control efforts currently under way via archery in area below Club. We will put a notice in the newsletter to let community know.

Item 8: Next Meeting date/Newsletter deadline

Next meeting: January 18, 2021 (note: no December meeting)

Newsletter: newsletter will be delivered for November soon, then no newsletter until late January / early February

Adjourned 8:55 pm