

Carderock Springs Citizens' Association
17 August 2015 CSCA Minutes CSCA Board Meeting

Board members present: *Anne Carlson, Rob Gorman, Stefan Lo Buglio, Jack Orrick, Donna Schwartz, Julie Weber*

Also in attendance: Phil Rider, Margit Meissner, Susan Eastman, Jaime Manzano, Catherine Remijan, Suzanne Dritschilo

1) Approval of June meeting minutes

The June Meeting minutes were approved with minor changes suggested during the review process.

2) Treasurer's Report

Rob Gorman provided the Treasurer's report for June and July.

- The House Tour generated \$1080, after paying for the printing of the brochure and gift cards for hosts, the profit was \$460.
- A check for \$7160 for the Carderock Conservation Coalition (C3) was sent to Rob Gorman. This is for the \$10,000 grant awarded to C3. Rob is unsure why the check was not for \$10,000. He attempted to set up a separate checking account with this money for the C3 committee; however, the bank deposited the money in the general CSCA account. Rob will work with the bank to correct this error.
- As dues payments have been received, Rob updated the database with current information. He will provide this information to Barbara Ames for the CSCA Directory update.
- Some dues were received via PayPal. Rob has added this as a line item in the budget. He will transfer these funds to the general CSCA account.

The Treasurer's reports were approved as presented.

ACTION: Rob to determine why the grant check for C3 was not for \$10,000.

ACTION: Rob to work with the bank to establish a separate checking account for C3.

ACTION: Rob will transfer funds from PayPal to the CSCA checking account.

3) Social Committee

Phil Rider presented his vision for the Social Committee. His goal is to create and/or support opportunities for neighbors to be together in social settings in order to develop or strengthen relationships that lead to a stronger sense of community. As such he has reached out to several groups within Carderock Springs, and consulted with Larry Ondrejko (Carderock Swim and Tennis Club, manager). Phil proposes having one event each month for adult members of the community. The events include those already planned within the community (he will include the camping trips to the list). Six of these events will be sponsored by the CSCA at a projected cost of \$100/event. The board approved this expenditure. Some events may bring in money for the CSCA. Phil will reach out to community members to participate in the planning of each individual event. Phil will serve as coordinator for social events. Larry has approved the proposed dates for events that are planned for 2015/2016.

Tentative schedule:

SAT SEP 12 Pool Party

SAT SEP 19 New Residents Potluck (sponsored by the CSCA)

SUN OCT 25 UNICEF Fall Festival

SAT NOV 21 (5:30 pm) International Family Thanksgiving Potluck (CSCA)
SAT DEC 12 Carderock Creates
SUN JAN 17 (3 – 6 pm) Wine Tasting; \$10/couple (CSCA)
SAT FEB 13 (7 pm) Valentine dessert potluck with champagne with dancing; \$10/couple (CSCA)
SAT MAR 19 (5:30 pm) A Day before the First Day of Spring Progressive Dinner (to begin at the club with appetizers/wine and beer, then proceed as a progressive dinner at different homes for different courses) (CSCA)
APR – no events (typically CSCA Spring Meeting)
MAY/JUN/JUL/AUG – no programs planned other than club gatherings on holiday weekends

ACTION: Phil to write article for CSCA Newsletter and advertise the New Residents Potluck.

[At this point in the meeting, Jack Orrick recused himself from the discussions about safety and how this relates to the Artis Alzheimer Center. Before he left, Jack did state that he thought the safety of the intersection at River Road and Carderock Springs Drive needs to be addressed. He encouraged the CSCA to focus on the safety issues. The intersection is dangerous with or without Artis. He stated he wanted this entrance to remain active and there may be different ways to enhance safety including increased signage, striping, and the addition of a cross walk. He suggested proposing ideas on how to make the intersection safer.

Jack also mentioned that a Washington Post reporter had interviewed him and Margie for the “Where We Live” column series. The article will appear on August 22.]

4) Safety Committee

Anne Carlson provided an update on the status of the Zoning Examiners evaluation process. Anne has until 5 pm on 21 AUG 2015 to respond to the current record. The Zoning Examiner will most likely issue a decision by the end of August. The West Bradley Citizens Association has added information to the record. Anne reminded all attendees that the Potomac Master Plan allows development in this area and the site is zoned for commercial use. The Mater Plan also says that River Road is to be maintained as a semi-bucolic road. Turning lanes were added for Congressional Country club and Norwood School. Changes to the intersection at River Road and Carderock Springs are limited by the bridge and the creek. Immediate neighbors on Clewerwall Drive have no opposition with the Artis development.

Several neighbors attended the meeting specifically for this discussion.

Catherine Remijan presented her concerns that included: the intersection is not safe for residents, not safe for pedestrians crossing River Road, she can see the project area from her house on Fenway Drive, the CSCA should work with other neighborhood groups in this effort, and traffic has increased beyond that of a single-family residential area by the development of several projects in the area. Committees from the state and county highways committees have determined that there is not a safety issue.

Phil Rider suggested that the situation with Artis needs to be diffused and that the issues of safety and the development of Artis needs to be separated with the focus on safety of the intersection.

Jaime Manzano is concerned about the changing character of the neighborhood due to increased development on River Road. He suggested influencing local officials.

Margit Meissner is concerned about safety on the intersection and would like to see some type of traffic light installed.

Susan Eastman noted that the county and state have acknowledged that 8 accidents have occurred at this intersection in the last 3 years. It was noted that State Highway data only includes those incidents where a first responder was dispatched. Records are not available electronically and are maintained by the

county as paper files. Susan provided an example of how her school was able to effect change in traffic patterns by civil demonstrations.

Julie Weber suggested having a profession traffic engineer create a report on this intersection. It seems that the experts hired by Artis analyzed data but did not physically observe the intersection. The committee thinks there is not enough time to identify an expert and get a report to add this to the record by August 21.

Stefan LoBuglio suggested that if we (the CSCA) focus on safety we might be able to influence decisions to make the intersection safer. Stefan provided a potential response for Anne to submit to the Zoning record.

Bill Moore provided comments via email (and read to the CSCA by Julie Weber) that suggested decoupling efforts to oppose the Artis development from the safety issue and instead focus on the safety of the intersection. He suggested gathering comprehensive traffic reports (we may need to reach out to the county for this), and providing a list of proposed safety measures.

Suzanne Dritschilo mentioned safety measures that are in place for other imperfectly aligned intersections in the area including the installation of a sensor-based traffic signal, yellow reflective signage, speed cameras, and speed zone analysis. Suzanne stressed that we need to do more than repeat what we have already said as we keep getting the same response.

The attendees suggested the following (either to be implemented individually or together) to make the intersection safer:

relocate the driveway to Artis from its current location (this would help correct the misalignment of the intersection), add no parking signs to Carderock Springs Drive, add a traffic light to the intersection (the intersection does not have enough traffic to justify this, but a inductive loop light may be warranted), add speed cameras to River Road, add increased signage that indicates Carderock Springs Drive and the driveway to Artis or signs indicating a hidden driveway, reflective roadway signs, a sign with a flashing light indicating the speed limit, an overhead flashing light.

The CSCA discussed if Anne's response is on behalf of the CSCA or as a private concerned citizen. The board supports Anne and her efforts to increase the safety of the intersection. Several committee members indicated that they would like to review her reply before it is posted to the record.

ACTION: Anne to draft response for the Zoning Examiners record and distribute to the CSCA (minus Jack) for review.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Monday September 21 @ 7:30 pm (Clubhouse)

Post meeting note:

CSCA Newsletter deadline is 21AUG2015. Jack will work with Noelle to have a newsletter published and delivered for early September.