

Carderock Springs Citizens' Association
November 18, 2013 Minutes CSCA Board Meeting

Present: Susan Eastman, Diane Karlik, Bill Moore, Eric Nothman, Jack Orrick, Phil Rider, Donna Schwartz, Mary Lou Shannon, Gunnar Tomasson

Opening and Comments –

Phil Rider called the meeting to order.

Discussion –

1) Secretary's Report –

Gunnar Tomasson presented the October Meeting minutes for review. Following discussion, the minutes were approved as presented.

Gunnar Tomasson to consider October Meeting minutes final.

2) Treasurer's Report –

Bob Stocker unable to attend meeting; Treasurer's Report and update postponed until next month.

3) Pepco Community Meeting Summary –

Phil Rider introduced the topic of the recently conducted Pepco Community Meeting. Michal Freedhoff and Susan Eastman were key persons within the community to organize the meeting. Susan provided summary of the meeting to the CSCA Board.

The meeting took place at the clubhouse November 6 with Pepco representatives and community members. PEPCO came to the meeting with eight mostly senior persons. Susan reviewed the map of the Carderock feeder lines, which showed 209 houses on the critical feeder.

Michael and Susan have submitted two filings over the past six months. In response to the filings and push from the community, a PEPCO Vice President outlined proposed actions to be undertaken such as lightning guards, monitoring/readings, etc. Susan is not sure when the community will receive the results of the PEPCO monitoring.

4) Social Committee –

The Board discussed the need to identify a Chairperson for the Committee to replace Joe Tobin. Mary Lou Shannon mentioned Eckhart Richter as a candidate. Jack Orrick will contact Katherine Hubley to discuss the position and her interest in it. Additionally, the Board will post the vacant position on the CS Chat to see if others might be interested.

Jack Orrick will contact Katherine Hubley to discuss the Chairperson position and her interest.

Post the vacant Social Committee Chairperson position on the CS Chat to see if others might be interested.

5) Fall Meeting –

Donna Schwartz will bring water for the Fall Meeting. Phil, Jack and Donna will bring food. Board members to show up at 6:30/6:45 to assist with set-up of chairs, tables, etc. Phil will make calls to figure out the beer and wine status. Jack will contact Larry to discuss audio/video requirements.

6) Budget –

The Board had requested that the various committees submit budget information for the upcoming year. The purpose is to provide better insight and planning versus the as-needed requests.

Eric Nothman has submitted budget request –

- a) Community Camping trip – Overview of the first camping trip which took place this fall; eight families participated. Great opportunity to get neighbors together.

The budget includes rent for two nights (Saturday and Sunday), which avoids having to rush closing camp on Sunday. Purchase of extra fishing rods included in budget. Input from discussion was to ask community for donation of any spare fishing rods.

Diane Karlik suggested that there should be some participant fee. This would both absorb some of the expense plus get a stronger commitment from families when signing up to participate.

Several Board members agreed with the idea to have an associated participant fee.

- b) Canoe Trip – Based on a similar Cabin John trip. Requesting a CSCA subsidization of \$700 - \$1,400. This is a canoe trip not a kayak trip. The organization will include hiring a company to serve as guide. The guide company provides a liability waiver form for participants to sign.

Cabin John has charged about \$30 to rent canoe and \$30 for a guide per canoe. The fees cover about half the cost of the trip. Eric is asking the CSCA to support the trip with covering the remaining cost balance.

Discussion input that the Community Camping trip might also include a liability waiver form. Typically, during family events the liability remains with the family. However, including a liability waiver form should be considered to provide clarity.

Dina Karlik submitted budget request for the Environmental Committee to support composting kitchen waste within the community.

The proposed budget requests CSCA support and finance a rebate program for compost containers within the community.

Discussion – Montgomery County provides free compost containers to residents upon request. Although the containers do not include lids, Phil has one and has fashioned a cover of his own.

Phil asked that the budget be re-structured to address general budget items rather than the project budget. Projects can always be brought to the Board for consideration but, for this purpose, general items and regular events should be itemized.

Mary Lou Shannon: Welcome Program budget request –

Mary Lou submitted a cost sheet showing \$300 for the Welcome Reception and \$200 for gifts. During discussion, the additional cost of baby sitters for the reception was brought up. That expense will likely need to be included in the total cost.

Mary Lou also discussed the Senior Program initiative she has undertaken. She suggested that the Senior Program might fit under the Social Committee.

7) Other Issues –

Phil brought up three questions submitted to him via email. Those questions were:

- a) Leaf collection within the community: This question was posed to the neighborhood via survey questionnaire and the proposal was declined. Community leaf collection would result in annual fees added to property bills.
- b) Dumpster in road: An ongoing home improvement effort has a dumpster placed in the road. The dumpster will be removed shortly but is it allowed at all? Not clear what the county guidelines are but it does seem to pose a hazard to vehicles and pedestrians.
- c) 4x4 posts lining property boundaries: Numerous houses in the neighborhood have placed sunken 4x4 posts along the roadside property line to discourage parking. The posts seem hazardous to persons walking and children playing. Discussion about the posts suggested that the county would not take action to remove posts. Phil will contact county to determine guidelines and options.

Bill Morris brought up the idea of having a community Co-op/market event similar to those found locally in other neighborhoods. Space would need to be coordinated and details determined, but felt it would be a good community event and something that might be explored sometime in the future.

Meeting adjourned