

Carderock Springs Citizens' Association
January 18, 2021
Held via Web Meeting due to Covid-19
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Petra Jacobs

Community members present: Katherine Stifel, Lisa Deyo, Charles and Jennifer Holmes, Stefan Lobuglio, Katalin Roth

Meeting called to order at 7:36 pm by Jack Orrick

1. Approval of November Board meeting minutes
2. Treasurer's report
3. Replacement/refurbishing entrance signs – status
4. 2021 Budget – final tweaks/adopt
5. Dues mailing/database migration
6. Congressional Country Club sediment control update
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Next Meeting –February 15, 2021; newsletter deadline

Item 1: Approval of November Board meeting minutes

Approved.

Item 2: Treasurer's Report

As of December 31, 2020: Major charge that hit in December: insurance \$1,170, plus a few more items. Our only large charges for the year were the consultant that we hired for Beltway consulting. We ended 2020 with approximately \$82,000 in our accounts. We can put \$4159 in Contingency fund – i.e. move it into a CD at our next renewal.

Item 3: Replacing/refurbishing entrance signs

Sue Eastman, Lisa Deyo, Ken Hinga and Jack Orrick met in mid-January with 4 MNCPPC Parks representatives about the sign on River Road. That part of Carderock Springs Drive used to be owned by Parks, who then deeded it to the county. If Parks gives us a permit, it's likely the county will as well. Jack was told the fee would be nominal, but they have not responded with a cost yet. Jack will continue to push them.

Other sign issue: the property owners at Hamilton Spring and Lilly Stone have not responded to our request to trim back the plantings around the sign.

Lighting at Persimmon Tree and Lilly Stone is still unresolved: Ashish and Stefan Lobuglio will examine the current scenario and make a recommendation.

Steps needed for permitting: Parks permit needed; then go to County to get county permit for 2 signs. If we're going to do anything with lighting, we should have this plan before we go to the County for permits (which will be February at the earliest).

Update from Sue and Ashish on bids for signs: \$500 per sign. 4 signs needed. Need to have a conversation with the Etsy seller to understand more. Ashish needs final questions from Ken to ask the seller.

Action Items:

- Jack to continue pressing Parks for permitting fee information.
- Ashish and Stefan to examine lighting at Persimmon Tree/Lilly Stone.
- Ashish to request final signage questions from Ken.

Item 4: 2021 Budget

Ashish will circulate budget. We can all review and formally adopt at our next meeting.

Item 5: Dues mailing / Database migration

Jack, Bill and Ashish met with AtoZ rep and learned that they are now partnering with another organization and will be migrating all of the databases to this new organization's database. We authorized them to proceed with this. If/when we print this year, we would be doing it with the new database. We will send out electronic dues notices first and then will mail a letter to those who don't renew. Jack will write a draft letter to share. Jack will also reengage with AtoZ and ask for update on database migration.

Action Items:

- Jack to draft renewal letter, which will be sent out electronically
- Jack will discuss database migration with AtoZ

Item 6: Congressional Country Club Sediment Control Update

Lisa Deyo and Jack met in mid-December with Steven Peck, NCPPC Forest Conservation Inspector; 3 other NCPPC staff; 2 DPS staff; and several allies from Cabin John. Peck acknowledged that his department needs to do plantings and he will be in touch with Congressional to confirm that plantings are being done. This should help control the runoff. NCPPC is responsible for stream restoration from Fenway down to Cabin John Creek. We were told this work would begin after DOT finished work on a plunge pool that would collect water and slow down velocity of water and erosion. Timing of this work is unclear. County believes they don't have jurisdiction above Fenway Road where the water is "like a firehose" coming off

Congressional. One recourse we have for upper part of creek is planned work that Congressional has elsewhere – this will require a meeting where we can present the problems that we have based on their previous grading/tree removal. Congressional only replaced a very small area of forest removal. Most of the trees planted so far have not been replaced the forest that was removed. What leverage do we have? All we can do is to continue to make noise, attend the planning meeting if it materializes.

Charles Holmes, whose property on Magruder Mill Court backs up to the creek under Fenway, asked if the Board could share information about who to write to express concerns; and also asked if there was someone he could speak to at Congressional as a neighbor. Because Congressional contributed \$850,000 for stream renewal and are compliant with county, they haven't felt the need to work with us. Several community members have tried. Gary asked if we know anyone on the Congressional board of directors? The Holmes family has seen that every time it rains, the creek turns light brown from sediment, and that the volume of water is very high. Lisa recommended that the Holmes's take photos and video and send these to Jack.

Congressional was supposed to be done with planting sod by end of year, but it doesn't look like they are. Lisa Deyo will follow up with Steven Peck on plantings of other plans that Parks is in charge of.

Action Items: Attend county permitting meeting regarding Congressional should it take place; see if we can contact Congressional Board of Directors.

Item 7: Old Business

Unleashed Dogs

- Gary contacted MC Animal Services Dispatch Center. The law is that all dogs must be leashed if they're not on the owner's property. There are fines that rise with each offense. We can publicize this in our newsletter. If there's a complaint about any owner and we know the identity of that owner, the county will send out an officer to meet with that person. Gary can write this up for our February newsletter. Sue recommended that Gary speak with Sandy Dembski, who is knowledgeable about this subject.
- Action Item: Gary to write article for newsletter.

Quiet Skies

- Petra shared information via email about recent developments. One positive item is that Westerly departure flight patterns have been moved to no longer go directly over Carderock and other residential areas. The Montgomery County Quiet Skies Coalition consultant is still working on incoming flights to DCA, which impact us more. There is a chance that noise can be reduced up to 20% if the consultant's proposal is adopted after testing.

Beltway expansion

- Lisa Chopin, the state person in charge of Beltway work has announced her retirement – it has been conjectured that she is going to work for a potential vendor. Governor Hogan has moved up the date to hire a concessionaire to February, before DEIS reconciliation.

We will get involved if/when the state either reissues Draft EIS or the Final EIS. State has moved focus to American Legion Bridge to I-270 portion of road (rather than I-270, which will happen much later or not at all). Tom asked if it's worth asking our consultant to speak with us at our next Board meeting on status and next steps. Jack can email them to see if it would be worth having a discussion at this point or find out when it would be good to discuss further.

Item 78: New Business

New Addition to Architecture Review Committee (ARC): Sandy Silverman FAIA

- The Board approved Sandy to serve on the ARC by written consent after the January Board meeting.

Item 9: Next Meeting date/Newsletter deadline

Next meeting: February 15, 2021

Newsletter: January 29, 2021 for distribution in early February

Adjourned 8:46 pm