

Carderock Springs Citizens' Association
June 15, 2020
Held via Web Meeting due to Covid-19
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

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

Board member absent: Bill Draper

Community members present: Katherine Stifel

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm by Jack Orrick

1. Approval of May Board and Annual Meeting Minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Old Business – Design Guidelines, Beltway widening project; Montgomery Quiet Skies.
4. New Business
5. Next Meeting date/Newsletter deadline

Item 1: Approval of May Board and May 31 Annual meeting minutes

Several suggestions were made for revision to the Annual Meeting Minutes:

- Amend minutes to indicate that each panelist agreed with our positions.
- Thank Katherine and Petra for their role at the Annual Meeting in presenting our community's position and note the Beltway Working Group.

For the May 18, 2020 CSCA Board Meeting Minutes, it was recommended that we also mention the Beltway Working Group, noting Petra as Chair, so that in years to come others will know about this group and its leadership.

Action Item: With the addition of the comments above, the minutes will be approved.

Item 2: Treasurer's report

Only 2 dues payments were received in June and one electric bill paid. We usually spend money on our committees but we haven't due to Corona Virus. Dues reminder notices: will cost about \$150 to do and we might make \$1000, so will do it soon.

Plans to update signage: Tom will reach out to Melissa Wilets regarding developing a uniform look that is the same across all the signs. Sue will get in touch with Ken Hinga, a Woodworker who lives in the community, to see if he's interested in submitting a quote. Sue will ask if he could restore and add National Register information to our signage or use the new logo for the neighborhood.

Action Items: Sue and Tom will communicate back to the Board regarding signage and we will discuss at our next meeting.

Item 3: Old Business – Design Guidelines, Beltway widening project; Montgomery Quiet Skies

Revision of the Carderock Springs Design Guidelines

- Katherine said that ARC members will spend time with the document and discuss it separately from the next ARC meeting.

Beltway Widening Project

- The Board discussed ways to maintain focus on our concerns with the officials who attended our Annual Meeting.
- Jack explained the Draft Environmental Impact study (DEIS), which will be a critical document that we will need to attend meetings for and submit comments regarding. State is choosing a contractor- narrowing list to 3 companies in the next couple of months. There will be hearings on toll amounts. Alternatives will be whittled down to “preferred alternative.” We were against adding 2 lanes on each side, but our request was ignored, likely due to the fact that 2 additional lanes on each side will generate the most revenue for the vendor. To date, noise mitigation has been mentioned in some places but not others. We have sent in comments each part of the process.
- Timing shared by Petra, Beltway Working Group Chair:
 - 7/20/2020: DEIS Publication (Notice of Availability) for the 495/270 Managed Lanes Study (MLS) with the caveat that the printed version of the DEIS will be available/ open for access to the public. MDOT SHA is currently looking for publicly available locations throughout Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties to locate and set up kiosks to provide public access to the DEIS.
 - 7/15/2020: Staff briefing of the DEIS to the Full M-NCPPC for discussion/comment
 - Late August/Early September 2020: Public hearings (2 in Montgomery; 2 in Prince Georges). Requirement is for public hearings no less than 30 days after the Notice of Availability. MDOT SHA is looking at ways to supplement the in-person hearings with virtual hearings but has indicated that the hearings may be delayed until they can safely hold a large gathering.
 - 9/27/2020: Close of public comment. MDOT SHA has indicated that the close of public comment will be no less than 15 days after the last public hearing on the DEIS
- Tom will follow up on looking for an “expert witness” who can respond to the DEIS, since an expert would give us more substance than we’ll be able to arrive at on our own.
- We discussed the possibility of litigation. We need to connect with other communities about this (Evergreen, Gibson Grove Church) and start talking about this as an option. We need an environmental lawyer and should start asking around – Petra suggested Ian Shavitz, for example, to get his preliminary thoughts about what we should do.
- Council Member Friedson recommended that we advocate the Board of Public Works. Tom suggested that we write a letter to get all 5 of the attendees at the Annual Meeting to sign. Could we leverage the elected officials to take a more aggressive stance, especially

regarding noise barriers? Elrich, Korman, Friedson, Love and Susan Lee have already signed a similar letter asking SHA to honor these promises. We can ask them to sign a new letter indicating that “we the undersigned” support the Carderock Community’s goals. Audience is Board of Public Works: We want this to be the beginning of an interaction. Treasurer Kopp opposes the plan, so really the most pressure needs to be put on Comptroller Franchot, who will likely run for governor in 2022.

- Katherine suggested that we refer to the 2040 Maryland Transportation Plan to understand the longterm plans of the state. Katherine will share. The state has been following this plan closely.

Montgomery Quiet Skies

- Petra shared information from a Montgomery Quiet Skies update that she recently received: Flights are at 50% of pre-COVID levels. Next meeting will be in later summer. Just monitoring the situation. Katherine asked about helicopter traffic. This is not the priority of MQS but they do want to address it eventually.
- The [DCA Community Working Group \(CWG\)](#) on May 28th voted to officially authorize [ABCx2](#), the MoCo/Arlington aviation consultant, to work with the FAA on behalf of aviation-impacted communities north of the airport. ABCx2 can now proceed to work with the FAA to explore technically feasible options for aircraft noise and pollution mitigation that could help the entire region. Within the next few months, some options will be presented to and reviewed by the North-of-Airport Subcommittee that includes representatives from Montgomery County, Washington, D.C., McLean and Arlington. Options deemed reasonable by this group will later be presented to the full DCA Community Working Group for consideration.
- At the May 28th CWG meeting, the MWAA reported a dramatic decline of about 75% fewer aircraft operations and 98% fewer passengers during the months of April and May flying out of DCA and Dulles. They also reported that the numbers are starting to tick up again: closer to 50% of pre-Covid levels as we may notice the recent return of more aircraft overhead.
- The date of the next MCQSC meeting remains TBD. The plan is to hold a zoom meeting later this summer.

Action Items:

- Beltway Expansion
 - Tom will follow up on looking for an “expert witness” who can respond to the DEIS; Tom will also assess politician’s interest in signing a new letter regarding our concerns.
 - Jack will email the community seeking anyone with expertise to review the DEIS when it is released
 - Katherine will share a link to the 2040 Maryland Transportation Plan

Item 4: New Business

No new business was discussed.

Item 5: Next Meeting date/Newsletter deadline

Next meeting: July 20th; no meeting in August.

Newsletter deadline for articles: July 25, newsletter will be printed the week after. This might be our only Summer newsletter. Next one would probably be published in September.

Adjourned 8:47 pm