

Carderock Springs Citizens' Association
July 18, 2011 Minutes CSCA Board Meeting

Present: Barbara Ames, Georgia Petsche, Phil Rider, Mary Lou Shannon, Bob Stocker, Gunnar Tomasson, Margit Meissner (ARC Liaison), Scott Willets (ARC)

Opening and Comments –

Phil Rider called the meeting to order. Everyone in attendance provided a brief introduction of themselves.

Discussion –

1) Recognition –

On behalf of the CSCA Board and the Carderock community, Gunnar Tomasson presented Mary Lou Shannon and Nancy Everett each with a community letter of appreciation. The letter recognized the efforts organizing the successful Carderock Garden Day 2011. The event provided an excellent opportunity for neighbors to meet and discuss plus \$642 was raised for the Garden Committee.

2) Secretary's Report –

Gunnar provided an overview of the distributed June Minutes. Phil Rider mentioned that the format of meeting minutes identified upcoming actions in italics. With the actions clearly captured, Phil asked that the minutes be distributed soon after the meetings were conducted.

Following discussion, the June Minutes were approved.

Gunnar Tomasson to consider June Meeting minutes final.

3) Treasurer's Report –

Bob Stocker submitted a written report and provided an overview of the budget, discussion of operating and discretionary funds. With assistance from Barbara Ames, an additional \$850 in dues was received during the month of July, bringing the year-to-date dues received to \$13,515.

Bob provided an overview of the percentage columns provided in the report, which includes percentage of budget and percentage of calendar year goal. As approved during the June CSCA Board meeting, the CSCA has donated \$200 to the Swim Club for the purchase of a ping pong table.

Bob is planning to draft an article to be included in an upcoming newsletter.

Following the overview and discussion, the Treasurer's report was approved.

The Treasurer's Report was approved

4) Other Items –

Phil explained the Carderock Springs is affiliated with a larger civic association known as West Montgomery County Citizens Association. Phil was contacted by the Association asking whether Carderock Springs would provide a volunteer. Diane Karlick offered to volunteer her time as needed.

The Montgomery County Board of Elections contacted the CSCA regarding assistance in staffing polling booths.

The Montgomery County Council requested a set point-of-contact to communicate with on any issues. Georgia Petsche volunteer to serve as the point-of-contact.

The Norwood School is looking for participation in discussions impacting surrounding neighborhoods and communities. Margit Meissner volunteer to participate in discussions.

Diane Karlik volunteered to work with the West Montgomery County Citizens Association as needed.

Georgia Petsche volunteered to be the CSCA point-of-contact with the Montgomery County Council.

Margit Meissner volunteer to participate in discussions sponsored by the Norwood School.

5) Community Signpost/Bulletin Board –

Barbara Ames provided an update on her research on the cost and county requirements for signs. As mentioned in previous meetings, the signs would be used to post community information and meetings. Barbara is still waiting to hear back from the County on the issue. The suggestion was made to move forward rather than to wait for the County response.

Barbara will check with some of her business clients to obtain a quote on sign costs.

6) Beautification Committee –

Georgia Petsche provided an update including that the work on the Carderock Springs sign on the corner of Persimmon Tree Ln. and Lilly Stone Dr. is complete.

The design for the River Rd./Carderock Springs Dr.. entryway is being planned. Nancy Everett is working on the plans, including layout and plant choices. Challenges include working with both very wet and very dry periods in the area, choosing deer resistant plants and the removal of invasive plants. The key to success will be maintenance, working to control the area before it becomes overgrown.

A quote of \$350 was received to clean up and plant the area. The point was made that if money is spent on plants, maintenance becomes more critical to avoid the loss of purchased plants. One proposal was to conduct regular spring and fall clean-ups plus monthly mowing during warmer months. Another recommendation was to clean the

stones around the entryway sign; the stones have become very dirty as the result of splash back during heavy rains.

The property is County owned but the Carderock Springs community has an easement on the property that was established when the community was planned.

Phil said that he had received an e-mail complaining about an uncut yard in the neighborhood. The county enforces lawn maintenance and will contact property owners who fail to maintain their lawns. This issue was looked into a couple of years ago when Barbara looked into the issue of maintenance. She will go back and look into what was found at the time.

Barbara Ames to review previous CSCA research on enforcement of lawn maintenance, county policies, etc.

7) Architectural Review Committee (ARC) –

Phil posed the question how do we as a community encourage compliance with ARC guidelines? Two key instances of ARC non-compliance have occurred this year prompting a re-visit of compliance. As background, it was noted that the ARC guidelines were established and voted upon by the community. Scott Willets of the ARC discussed some of the history and recent issues encountered by the ARC.

In the event of non-compliance, legal options have been difficult to pursue and are very costly. To encourage compliance, the idea was suggested to post who has received ARC review and approval and who has not. Keep the ARC discussions in the public arena and focus on positive. Instances of non-compliance should be mentioned only after other avenues have been exhausted.

Phil proposed that the ARC develop and propose changes to the ARC process based on input received at the meeting.

Scott Willets to develop ideas on the ARC process and submit them to the CSCA Board for review and discussion

8) Safety Committee –

Phil reported that the Safety Committee met again to discuss the proposed bump outs on Fenway Road. The committee continues its review of e-mails, meeting minutes and comments received regarding Fenway Road traffic concerns. Based on the input received, the committee continues to explore alternatives and tweaks to the proposed bump out plan.

A few representatives of the committee met with the County representatives to discuss Fenway Road options.

Input was received that drivers are also in danger with the bump out solution since they will have to move to the middle of the road to avoid striking the bump outs. This would increase the potential for a head-on collision. This idea was mentioned during the May Safety Committee Community Meeting but not captured in the posted minutes. The

speaker was assured that the input was captured in other documents and included in committee discussions.

Two key issues mentioned:

- I) How does the Board want to get input (survey, vote, etc.)?
- II) How would a community vote be conducted?

The vote will be a total community vote. With so many in the community away on vacation, the vote will not happen this summer. The committee will bring the proposal to the community with a presentation and details of the proposal. There was some discussion on whether to bring more than one option to the vote to avoid an 'all or nothing' situation.

Some feedback was generated for other ideas such as "Children Playing" signs, speed limit painted on roadway, etc. The county has portable bump outs available for trial. The county has also been willing to listen to and flexible with other options such as the installation of traffic islands.

If a survey is conducted, the language must be carefully constructed to maintain neutrality.

Based on discussion, the next major steps would be:

- 1) Conduct a community forum to present one or more option(s);
- 2) Discuss and revise the proposal as needed; and
- 3) Safety Committee brings the final proposal to the CSCA Board for review.

A discussion of vote specifics included: 1) What percentage of votes would be needed to decide on a proposal? 2) Is the voting based on a simple majority? 3) Is the vote weighted towards Fenway residents? Jack Orrick had previously proposed to Phil that 2/3 of Fenway residents should be mandated with a simple majority overall.

Since Fenway Rd. is a major artery through the neighborhood, there was some feedback to go with a simple majority without differentiation between addresses (i.e., weighting in favor of Fenway residents).

With the input received, the Board will decide on the parameter of the vote. The topic will be included on the next CSCA Board meeting agenda.

Phil Rider to include discussion of voting parameters on the agenda for the September CSCA Board meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.