

Carderock Springs Citizens' Association
February 20, 2012 Minutes CSCA Board Meeting

Present: Barbara Ames, Diane Karlik (Garden Committee), Margit Meissner (ARC Liaison), Georgia Petsche, Phil Rider, Mary Lou Shannon, Bob Stocker, Gunnar Tomasson

Opening and Comments –

Phil Rider called the meeting to order.

Discussion –

1) Secretary's Report –

The January minutes were presented and reviewed. Following discussion, the January Minutes were approved.

Gunnar Tomasson to consider January Meeting minutes final.

2) Treasurer's Report –

Bob Stocker provided an overview of the monthly Treasurer's report. The report reflected that 50% of the dues captured in the annual budget had been received. Some of the dues notices were returned as 'undeliverable'. Bob asked for assistance in reviewing the addresses and confirming the names associated. Once reviewed, he would like to reconcile the names/addresses in database.

Action – Mary Lou and Barbara volunteered to review the list and correct discrepancies.

Bob transferred \$25,000 to restricted savings. In keeping with previous Board discussions, Bob is working towards building a \$30,000 balance in the restricted savings account.

Treasurer's Report for the month of January were approved

3) Membership

Phil asked if there was any update on the Directory. Barbara said that an updated Directory was scheduled for Fall 2012. Barbara will try to get advertisers to sign up, purchasing some advertising in the Directory to help offset costs.. There was some discussion about livening up the Directory using photos.

For consideration, the Board discussed the idea of maintaining the online version of the Directory with an opt-in/out option to receive the hard copy version. No decision was made but the idea remains open for further discussion.

4) Environmental Committee

Phil thanked Diane Karlik for information the 'green' information she shares with the community on the CS Chat.

Diane shared the idea to see if people in the neighborhood with geo-thermal heating would be interested in sharing their experiences. Several households in the neighborhood have had geo-thermal installed in recent years. Suggested that this might be a good topic to address during the Fall meeting.

5) Welcome Committee

Mary Lou said that December had been a busy month, with six families moving to Carderock during the month.

6) Beautification Committee

Mary Lou would like to encourage people to clean-up their front yards. Georgia agreed and said that she would put a note in the upcoming newsletter reminding people to maintain their yards.

In trying to keep the neighborhood clean, the Board discussed how to get kids involved in the maintenance of the neighborhood. Ideas were shared such as community service hours, establishing structured teams to help, etc.

Phil suggested beginning efforts with the newsletter article and see what happens.

Action – Georgia to post a notice in the upcoming newsletter reminding people to maintain their yards.

7) ARC –

Margit reviewed recent activity of the ARC, which has not been very active in recent months.

Phil discussed an anonymous complaint that was received about a house not being kept up. There was some discussion about the property and how to address the issue. The main

question being: “what can the Board do to encourage someone to maintain their property?” The starting point would be to approach the neighbor with the concerns. It was not clear who would approach the home owners about the complaint.

Action – Determine how and who will discuss issue with home owner about a property not being kept up.

8) Safety Committee

Phil spoke with Tracy Wroe (Montgomery County Traffic Calming Engineer) recently. The ideas that the Committee has preferred have been dismissed by the County, based on past experience, as ineffective long-term solutions.

On a positive note, Phil said that the membership of the Committee has grown recently and they will continue to pursue an acceptable solution for Fenway Rd.

9) Newsletter (“Green Newsletter”)

Phil noted that advertising is no longer being included in Orange Newsletter. The question he posed was “Should the Board include some advertising in the Green Newsletter?” The consensus was that there should be some avenue for advertising but details needed to be determined. Discussion included:

- Should an advertising fee be charged?
- Who would handle this effort (money, editing, etc.)?
- Would a ‘no charge’ option be available to people such as teenagers or students?

Action – Mary Lou offered to put notice on CS Chat asking for a volunteer to handle the advertising logistics

Phil proposed that the Newsletter may move to an ‘as needed’ basis rather than a set, bi-monthly basis. There have been times when little news has occurred and the value of compiling a newsletter is minimal.

As an information source to the community and others, the CS website provides information and links about the Carderock community. The welcome page should be updated to reflect recent activity and keep the website current. Gunnar offered to update the website with current content.

Action – Gunnar will update the CS website content to reflect current activities.

10) Annual Meeting

Phil proposed having speakers address the history of Carderock Springs for annual meeting. Discussion on the topic brought the idea to have long-time community members share their experiences. There are many original residents in the neighborhood who have seen the community grow and evolve. The idea was proposed to install a “History of Carderock” display in the club somewhere if the club is agreeable to the proposal.

The discussion on the annual meeting topic shifted to the Carderock Springs 50th anniversary, which might be the more appropriate forum for any upcoming discussion on the history of Carderock Springs.

11) Carderock Springs 50th anniversary

Mary Lou mentioned that she knows of two University professors who studied modern architecture in Maryland and have focused on Bennett/Carderock Springs. The professors did the study with a grant from Maryland Historic Trust and came up with Bennett and Carderock Springs as being worthy of nomination for eventual status in National Register of Historic Places. Mary Lou suggested that one or both would be excellent for speaker at the 50th Anniversary celebration and hoped that a history topic not be used for the annual meeting but saved for the anniversary celebration.

Another speaker candidate that has been mentioned previously is Judith Welles, a local author, who is researching the neighborhood for a book and would also be a good speaker candidate.

Mary Lou suggested that the 50th anniversary of the neighborhood is a community effort. She suggested that the Swim Club Board participate might want to participate since the club plays such a major and central part in the community.

Organizing the 50th anniversary will likely take a fair amount of time and energy. An ad-hoc committee consisting of community members was proposed to help with the effort. Several Board members offered suggestions on persons who might be able to help.

Action – Phil will contact the Swim Club Board regarding their interest in participating.

Action – Gunnar, Diane and Georgia will check with some suggested persons to serve on the committee to organize the 50th anniversary event.

12) Other Items

“Carderock Springs” sign:

Mary Lou shared her idea about installing a new, more prominent “Carderock Springs” sign. The Rock Creek Woods neighborhood has a very nice sign at an entrance which mentions the historical designation of the community. Mary Lou shared photos of the sign and proposed something similar be done in Carderock, specifically mentioning the historic designation Carderock received a few years ago.

The stop-sign corner of Hamilton Spring Rd. and Lily Stone Dr. was a suggested ne location. Gunnar mentioned the sign currently at the corner of the other intersection Hamilton Spring Rd. and Lily Stone Dr. The current sign is unobtrusive but is likely there with an easement; that would be a second, and maybe simpler, location to consider.

Action – Mary Lou will investigate the sign issue and placement further.

CSCA Website:

Mary Lou mentioned that for many people looking for information on neighborhoods, community websites are often a first stop and first impression. She wants to consider consolidating the websites into single access site with links to the CSCA and CS Club.

Action – Mary Lou would like to consolidate web addresses. She will propose changes to Margie.

Meeting Adjourned.