

Carderock Springs Citizens' Association
October 17, 2011 Minutes CSCA Board Meeting

Present: Barbara Ames, Jack Orrick, Georgia Petsche, Phil Rider, Bob Stocker, Gunnar Tomasson, Margit Meissner (ARC Liaison)

Opening and Comments –

Phil Rider called the meeting to order. With a community member participating in the meeting, everyone in attendance provided a brief introduction of themselves.

Discussion –

1) Secretary's Report –

Gunnar provided an overview of the distributed September Minutes and noted changes made based on input received from the Board. Following discussion, the September Minutes were approved.

Gunnar mentioned that minutes are distributed for review to the Board and others participating in a meeting such as Committee members or ARC members. He also said that the community website was updated with most recent meeting notes and the Annual Treasurer's Report for the last several years.

Phil addressed the timing of the CSCA Board meetings now that the meetings are occurring later in the month. The issue to contend with is submitting meeting notes and updates to the Newsletter for publishing, which has a deadline of the 20th of each month. Phil will work with Margie to possibly extend the deadline by one week.

Phil learned that the Club is considering going to an on-line newsletter and discontinuing the hard copy distribution. A key point for the on-line option is that all Club members have on-line access and e-mail accounts. For the community as a whole, not everyone maintains that level of access so hard copy distribution is the best way to ensure everyone receives CSCA information and updates.

Gunnar Tomasson to consider September Meeting minutes final.

Phil to contact Margie to discuss extending the newsletter submission deadline by one week.

2) Treasurer's Report –

Bob Stocker submitted a written report and provided an overview of the budget, discussion of operating and discretionary funds. Bob noted that 311 households paid CSCA dues which is historically a very strong membership rate. Bob attributed the successful membership effort to the second dues mailing.

In response to a recommendation made during the September CSCA Board meeting, Bob added an "Entrance Improvement and Maintenance" line item to the budget summary/report.

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

The Treasurer's Report was approved

3) Old Business –

Phil discussed the Newcomers Reception which was held at the Club on September 25th. About 60-70 guests attended and it was a success with positive feedback from community newcomers, long-time residents and Board members. Phil gave specific thanks to Mary Lou Shannon who, as the Welcome Chairperson, led the effort to coordinate, schedule and announce the event. Her efforts for the September Newcomers Reception set a template for success planning subsequent receptions.

4) Beautification Committee –

Georgia Petsche gave an update on the Beautification Committee's ongoing effort to landscape and install new lighting at the Carderock Springs entrance at River Rd. The installation of the lights has begun. One of the two lights purchased was defective so that light is currently being exchanged.

Georgia plans to meet with the landscaper this Wednesday (September 19th) to discuss the site and work. Previous plans to meet have been delayed due to the many rain days we have had recently.

Jack Orrick asked the Board whether anyone had an update on the proposed deck/pavilion addition at the Club. Although no one present had an official update, the understanding was that construction would begin this fall.

Georgia to meet with landscaper to discuss plans at the Carderock Springs entrance at River Rd.

5) Safety Committee –

Phil reported that the Safety Committee had not been able to meet to finalize a proposal for submittal to the Board. The approach remains to begin with less intrusive methods (e.g., installation of signs, temporary electronic speed boards) before any action is begun on traffic islands or bump-outs.

Phil said that the Safety Committee is looking for someone to assume the Chairperson role he currently holds. A person has volunteered to lead the Committee work but does not want to take on the responsibility of Chairperson.

6) Community Signpost/Bulletin Board –

Barbara Ames updated the Board on her research of cost and county requirements for a community sign. She has found that the installation of a sign would require a county variance and a formal easement on private property (the county will not allow installation on county owned land). With this information, the consensus was that the cost and effort required to install a community sign was prohibitive so this effort is now cancelled.

Jack Orrick read a section of the covenants that addresses sign requirements. The covenants do contain guidelines on signs and advertising, which restricts sign installation and size.

The proposal to purchase and install a community sign was cancelled.

7) Other Items –

On-street Parking Safety:

Phil received an e-mail from a Carderock community member expressing safety concerns with cars parked on the side of the neighborhood roads. The parking safety issue was brought to the Board for consideration. The point was made that the concern was regarding ‘unnecessary’ on street parking rather than during events such as parties when the number of cars necessitate some on street parking. On certain roads, especially with hills and turns, the safety issue is more pronounced. Jack Orrick referenced the covenants which do impose parking restrictions along neighborhood ‘public streets’.

The Board consensus was that there was a safety concern and proposed issuing a reminder to residents to park in driveways/garages if possible.

Phil to draft community reminder for the Newsletter and perhaps CS Chat urging residents to park in driveways/garages.

Carderock Fall Fest:

Phil attended and volunteered for the annual Fall Fest. He was impressed by the event and felt it provided an opportunity to grow our sense of community. He proposed drafting a note of thanks from the Board. Gunnar volunteered to draft a letter of appreciation.

Gunnar to draft a letter of appreciation from the Board recognizing the effort organizing and success of the Fall Fest.

The Norwood School Discussions:

Margit Meissner is the Carderock representative in discussions the Norwood School sponsors to identify any school related impacts, such as traffic, on the surrounding neighborhoods and communities. Margit provided an overview of her initial participation in the discussions, which are scheduled to occur three times a year: October, January and April. She was very impressed with the school and the efforts made to include local communities in their discussions.

Annual Fall Meeting –

Jack Orrick asked if a Fall Board meeting was being planned. The Fall meeting is typically an information meeting such as last year when the issue of community safety/security was addressed. The Fall meeting for this year had not been discussed up to now but the Board will plan such a meeting. With the late consideration of the meeting and the upcoming holiday season, the meeting date was proposed for January. Following some discussion, January 8th was proposed as a tentative meeting date. The January date

will also provide time to identify a topic and speaker(s) to participate. Phil mentioned the many community members who are involved in interesting/significant activities and proposed reaching out to them to gauge interest in speaking at the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.