

Carderock Springs Citizens' Association  
July 17, 2017 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Jack Orrick, Julie Weber, Rob Gorman, Stefan LoBuglio, Bill Moore, and Sindy Udell  
Excused: Bill Draper, Seth Hertlein, and Yvette Quintela.

Guests: Petra Jacobs, Diane and John Karlik, Sara Boyon, John Carlson, Tim Williams, and Eric Nothman.

CSCA President Jack Orrick convened the meeting at 7:36 PM.

The Board members approved the June 2017 minutes unanimously. CSCA Treasurer Rob Gorman presented the financial report which showed a healthy balance sheet. He indicated that he was waiting for the landscaping bill for the area around the neighborhood sign at the entrance to Carderock Spring Drive from River Road.

Petra and Diane presented on the work of the Montgomery County Quiet Skies Coalition which is also described in the August 2017 newsletter. They indicated that the rerouting of planes in MoCo began in December of 2015 with a decision of the FAA to narrow the flight paths to DCA under a program called Next Generation. The board agreed to have the Coalition present at the fall association meeting on November 5.

Petra also discussed the work of the committee to address the Beltway noise including the recent passage of a resolution of support by the Carderock Elementary School PTA. At the meeting, the CSCA board also passed a resolution in support of efforts to decrease noise through barriers and plantings alongside the beltway.

Eric asked the board's consideration for its support to subsidize a community canoe trip down the Potomac under the guidance of staff from Calleva. This is modeled on an activity by the Cabin John neighborhood. While the board asked why a subsidy was necessary and whether costs could be reduced by dispensing with the second guide and catered meal, it indicated its support for Eric to further investigate and reminded him that he did have discretion in spending his \$500 budget to promote outdoor experiences for the community.

The remainder of the meeting focused on the results of the second neighborhood survey which revealed a majority of respondents in support of the installation of trial islands. As detailed in previous meetings and as described as the rationale for the survey, the board indicated that it would act on these results and ask the county to arrange the installation of the trial islands in the late fall. After a three-month period during which the police and county would gather speed data, the board will commission another survey of the community to gauge its support for permanent islands based on the data and the experience of using the islands.

John Karlik raised a point of order, and citing Article 2 and Section 6 of the by-laws, opined that the board did not have the authority to move forward with this decision as this was not "voted" on by the community members at the April meeting. John also raised concerns about the lack of transparency of the process and referenced an incident where he alleged a board member or designee bullied a resident into supporting the trial island in the survey. The Board disagreed with the legal interpretation offered by John on the bylaws (and Jack Orrick subsequently followed up with the attorney John indicated that he had spoken to about this interpretation), as well as Mr. Karlik's allegations about lack of transparency on the trial island process given the explanation provided by the survey and the voluminous discussions on the trial islands in the CSCA newsletters, the CS Chat, and at prior CSCA Board and Association meetings. In light of Mr. Karlik's refusal to provide any specific information on the circumstances surrounding the alleged coercion of a resident on the traffic survey, and the fact that none of the Board members present had any knowledge of this incident, the Board felt that there could be no further response.

John Carlson expressed concerns that the trial islands represented an experiment that could actually diminish safety for a variety of reasons (forces all walkers and bikers into a narrow path, and for those heading north, forces them to cross the street; the swales in this area are in poor shape and does not provide a safe haven). He

also indicated that the proposed location does contain a blind curve, and indicated his hope that the County highway agency would address this specific safety concerns. Board member and Safety Committee member Julie Webb indicated that she was meeting with the county the following day and would specifically ask the official to address these concerns. John also cautioned the board to maintain some independence from the safety committee to ensure its credibility. Board Member Stefan LoBuglio shared that the board has been very mindful of this concern, and did share that there may be a misperception that the board has reached a consensus among themselves about what are the most effective traffic calming strategies.

Sara asked about why other traffic calming measures such as speed bumps were not currently being considered. The board did share that the police and county have indicated that some measures such as stop signs and speed bumps are not allowable, but it is pursuing speed boards which provide drivers with notifications if they are exceeding the speed limit but do not issue photo tickets. Tim also spoke of his interest in learning more about the process the community is following to improve pedestrian and biker safety on the road.

Diane Karlik asked whether CSCA could post meeting agendas in advance to the community to alert them about what topics would be discussed. The board agreed with this suggestion. Moving forward, the CSCA president will post the agenda on the CS Chat and the CSCA Secretary will post the agenda on the website.

Finally, the board did authorize Stefan LoBuglio to obtain estimates to replace the inefficient halogen lights which may have a broken timer as they are on during daylight hours with LED lights in a rugged outdoor box. Related, John Carlson indicated that the sign at the intersection of Carderock Drive and Fenway Road may need some attention.

The board reminded guests that it would skip its August meeting and next meet September 18.

The meeting adjourned at 9:39pm.