Carderock Springs Citizens’ Association

September 17, 2018

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Jack Orrick, Petra Jacobs, Tom Deyo, Jenny Spreitzer, Svitlana Sweat, Stefan LoBuglio, Julie Weber, Bill Draper

Board members excused: Tim Williams

Community members present:  Susan Eastman, Howard Evoy, Craig Stoltz, Joe Okon, Anne Carlson, Joan Segreti, Anthony Segreti, Ashish Goel, Sandy Demsky, Nancy Everett, Joe Gottesman, and Leanne Long.

CSCA President Jack Orrick convened the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Item 1: Minutes

Minutes of the July 16, 2018 meeting were approved by the board upon motion duly made and seconded (Motion #1)

Item 2: Treasurer Report

Treasurer Sweat had provided her report to board members just prior to the meeting electronically. She summarized that balances: $78,304 with $55.500 in contingency and savings of $2,700. She added that landscaping and electric bills are paid through August including the landscaping service. She has consolidated the Paypal account and transferred $900 to the checking account. She shared that the Lafayette Credit Union currently used by CSCA to does not provide some useful online features such as online payment for services, and she was encouraged by the board to explore moving the CSCA account to another financial institution. Community member Carlson asked whether CSCA can reduce its electrical costs by ensuring that the entrance/monument lights are not on during the day. Board member Stefan LoBuglio explained that the lights are on during cloudy and darker days due to the placement of the light sensor, and as the sensor is attached to the electrical box on the pole, it is not clear that is can be relocated. He did add that the wattage of the bulbs have been reduced from a combined 1000 watts to 500 watts, and he will look whether further reductions may be possible.

Item 3: Promulgating and enforcing covenants

The Segretis brought to the board’s attention that over the summer a small building was erected on a concrete foundation in the back of a home but in direct line of sight from their kitchen window. They did ask the new home owners if they had run their design by the ARC and also whether they had permits for the job from the county. They did cease work and obtain permits, and the designs for the shed were given to the ARC but after the building was largely erected.

The situation again emphasized the need for the CSCA to promulgate and enforce the covenants through a coordinated effort of informing realtors, greeting and educating new home owners, providing greater consistency and authoritative decision-making authority of the ARC, and recognizing that the CSCA board serves to hear appeals.

Leanne Long did explain that it can be difficult for the Welcoming Committee to present the covenants in a way that does not detract from its efforts to warmly greet and welcome new individuals into the community. She indicated that currently the committee provides a two-page letter and a separate document that provides a listing of specific responsibilities.

Related, Nancy Everett indicated that too many homeowners are not following the community’s tree removal guidelines and are cutting down hardwood trees.

Finally, Jack also described that he and CSCA Secretary Tim Williams did speak to Hollin Hills about their ARC process and other efforts to to preserve their situationist modern architecture development. They indicated that efforts to seek designation of our community as a Historic District or developing the CSCA as a home owners association should continue to be explored.

Action Item #1: The Welcoming Committee will standardize how it communicates and educates new residents to the covenants and will share these documents with the board.

Action Item #2: Tree committee will provide the welcoming committee with guidelines for the welcoming packet.

Item 4: Branding Working Group

Tom provided an update on the activities on the Branding Committee and went into greater depth with the tiered strategy that the committee recommends to improved branding that was presented in a document which was provided to the board in July. Tom discussed efforts to revise the CSCA website by November and efforts to consistently use the same style in all physical signage, documents, and electronic community. He provided samples of original Carderock materials that should be digitized and presented on the website. There are two logos that he thought might be considered for CSCA both developed by Melissa Wilets – one for a private realtor who took over former resident and realtor Mary Lou Shannon’s Carderock Website and the other for our CSCA Carderock Directory. He is in discussions with Melissa about how and at what cost these logos may be used more widely. During the discussion, one participant indicated that 23 homes were sold last year, which brings an urgency to establishing a brand to help promulgate and obtain compliance with the covenants.

Action Item #1: Tom will develop a budget proposal for working with Melissa to standardize branding on the website and in signage and documents.

Item 5: Sound Barrier Working Group

Petra provided update on the Sound Barrier Working Group and the July 25th meeting at Pyle Middle School to discuss the State Highway Association’s exploration of ways to reduce congestion on I-495 in proximity to the American Legion bridge including expanding lanes. The meeting was convened by the State Highway Agency and involved the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The main presenter was Dr. Olin who was one of the authors of a study that lays out the 15 options currently being considered. Sandy Demski had attended a County Council meeting on this topic and reported that that many of the County political leaders seem disposed to be against the expansion and more concerned with the need to address congestion on I-270

Action Item #1: Petra and the working group will organize comments from Carderock residents about the expansion options.

Item 6: Quiet Skies

The September meeting for the working group was cancelled as the regional workgroup arranged to convene its meeting at the Carderock Club House on October 11 at 7:30pm. The main update provided was that Montgomery County and Arlington County are pursuing a joint procurement process to hire an expert.

Action Item #1: Diane Karlik will place an article about the meeting in the newsletter.

Final Issues/ Announcements

Anne Carlson raised a concern that the CSCA president submitted a letter to county which could be inferred to indicate the community’s support for speedbumps on Fenway. Jack indicated that he exercised his discretionary authority to comment on a proposed county policy change that would make this option available to the community in the future, but was not indicating that the community was committing to this measure in any way.

Social Chairman Craig Stoltz reported that at least 8 new families and 70 total residents had signed up for the new comers potluck scheduled for September 23.

Anne Carlson indicated that she has organized the planting of 360 daffodil bulbs throughout the neighborhood during the weekend of October 20.

Jack reminded the board of the deadline to submit comments for the newsletter was September 30.

There being no other matters before the board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:18 p.m.

Submitted by Stefan LoBuglio, CSCA At-Large Board Member