

Carderock Springs Citizens' Association
March 18, 2013 Minutes CSCA Board Meeting

Present: Larry Ondrejko, Jack Orrick, Georgia Petsche, Donna Schwartz, Mary Lou Shannon, Bob Stocker, Gunnar Tomasson, Michal Freedhof, Susan Eastman

Opening and Comments –

Georgia Petsche called the meeting to order.

Discussion –

1) Secretary's Report –

Gunnar Tomasson presented the February Meeting minutes for review. Gunnar noted that no comments or change requests had been received after distribution of the draft minutes. Following discussion, the minutes were approved as presented.

Gunnar Tomasson to consider February Meeting minutes final.

2) Treasurer's Report –

Bob Stocker provided a review of current balances in CSCA accounts and income statement. He noted that the rate of dues submission was notably slower than last year. To date, 190 households have paid dues versus 245 households at the same time last year. Following some discussion, Bob volunteered to post a reminder on dues statements in the newsletter.

The Treasurer's Report was approved without changes.

3) Tree Survey –

Jack Orrick presented the status of the ongoing tree survey. The survey was distributed to the community in both hardcopy and electronic format. Approximately 35 surveys have been received so far but the survey is ongoing. The results so far have been fairly evenly split between maintaining the trees and more strongly accommodating lawns. Overall, though, respondents do seem to want guidance on the activities.

4) Newcomer's Reception Party –

Mary Lou Shannon provided an overview of Newcomer's Reception Party held this past January. Need more assistance with the planning aspect of the party. Other observations and lessons learned for future Newcomer's Reception Parties included:

Invitees: Great idea to include kids in the party; they had a good time with the craft activities.

Time: 4 pm – 7 pm would be a good time to hold the event.

Date: Suggest having it just before Valentine's Day and have kids working on valentines.

Publicity: Send email invitations to newcomers and let them know we will have a crafts table for the children. Have them RSVP to Welcoming Chair/Representative—emphasize doing the RSVP for Event Committee Chair, too. Consider Evite or Newcomers for 2014

Set up: Tablecloths might need pressing. Could someone with a fancy dryer/steamer do them? There are plenty of tablecloths and stored in Larry's office. Get plastic ones for food, drink and kids tables

Child Care: Noreen could handle it all or a parent volunteer could, too. Need supplies like paper, scissors, play dough and games

Decorations: Plants from Giant at \$5.99 each. Ten was enough. Balloons and stuff from Party City. Sign and balloons from Party City were terrific, especially for the photos and video

Supplies: lots of plates, napkins and silver ware. Put supply of plates, forks and knives on all tables. Bring candle lighters, votives, and candles

Photos: Amy Moore's photos of the event were great. ML could take some, too. Suggest having a photographer or having a video made.

Nametags: Write names of Newcomers big and on special name tags.

Introductions: Get newcomers to send a couple sentences about themselves for introductions. Something cute is good. Combine into one Word doc with large font. Joe Tobin was a great MC.

Clean up. Get everyone helping. Plastic bags go over to the dumpster. Extra wine should go to a board member's home to be used at a future event.

Mary Lou also noted that she is the owner and registrant of the CSCA website, www.carderockcitizens.org. She has owned the url for many years and wanted to capture the ownership in the CSCA minutes if that information was needed in the future.

5) Annual Meeting –

The CSCA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday April 14th. The schedule will include:

Gathering: 6:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Meeting Topic: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Gunnar Tomasson is putting the program together on fire safety. He contacted the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department about the program and has a speaker from the fire department scheduled. Following discussion on who might be a good candidate to speak specifically about the Carderock houses, Gunnar will contact ARC member Ryan Robbins regarding his availability and interest in sharing his knowledge of the houses.

CSCA members will bring some finger food to share at the gathering.

Mary Lou will check with Joe Tobin regarding the wine. There may be some left over from the Newcomer's Reception. If not, Joe he has a good source from whom to purchase wine.

CSCA members will bring some finger food to share at during the gathering time of the meeting.

Gunnar will contact ARC member Ryan Robbins regarding his availability and interest in sharing.

Mary Lou will check with Joe Tobin regarding the wine status and need to purchase more.

The January Meeting Minutes included the following actions related to the Annual Meeting:

Gunnar Tomasson will provide an overview of the previous CSCA year

Bob Stocker will provide a Treasurer's Report for the previous CSCA year

6) CSCA Board Membership –

Donna Schwartz was introduced as the nominee for CSCA Member-at-Large, replacing Mary Lou Shannon who will leave that position but will continue as Chair of the Welcoming Committee.

7) Research into Carderock Pepco/Power Issue –

Michal Freedhoff has worked with several other persons in the community to gain an understanding of the impact of an aging underground electrical system and the history of electrical incidents within the community. A key point will be to urge Pepco release records of service calls to understand the issues and identify anomalies. The process to push for the release of Pepco records begins with a letter from the community to the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission to further the investigation. To support this request, Susan Eastman has shared the records she has compiled in her ongoing dispute with Pepco concerning the fire damage she experienced this past summer.

Following discussion, the Board decided to proceed with the request to further the investigation by drafting a letter to the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission. As the CSCA President, the letter would come from Phil Rider on behalf of the community. Michal offered to draft the letter for Phil to review and sign when final.

Michal Freedhof to draft the letter to the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission regarding power issues/release of records for Phil to review.

Meeting adjourned