

Carderock Springs Citizens' Association
September 13, 2010 Minutes CSCA Board Meeting

Present: Tom Hilton, Jack Orrick, Phil Rider, Mary Lou Shannon, and Gunnar Tomasson

Opening and Comments –

Phil Rider called the meeting to order. The meeting was held with notice provided to the community that the meeting was open to all; a neighbor, Mr. David Baum, did attend and participated in discussions.

Discussion –

To begin the meeting discussion, Phil distributed the meeting agenda and August Meeting minutes.

1) Secretary's Report –

Gunnar Tomasson had previously distributed a draft version of the August Meeting minutes. Following a brief discussion, the minutes were approved.

Phil requested that meeting minutes be distributed within two weeks of a Board meeting, primarily to serve as a reminder of actions to be completed prior to the next Board meeting.

Gunnar Tomasson to consider August Meeting minutes final.

2) Old Business –

Phil brought up the ongoing discussion regarding power outages in the neighborhood. What can the Board do to facilitate discussions/solutions? He suggested that there were likely residents within the community that had knowledge of options for power.

Mary Lou suggested the creation of a 'task force' to investigate available options. The power issues that Carderock has been experiencing have been brought to the attention of the Montgomery County government.

Phil Rider will try to pull together a group of residents to serve as the task force for neighborhood power issues. Phil will coordinate the formation of the task force but will not be a direct participant.

3) Welcome –

Mary Lou Shannon has developed and distributed many welcome letters and has also done many welcome visits. Phil asked how we could identify the needs of newcomers, especially given the diversity within the community. Jack Orrick mentioned that in the past the Club hosted more adult activities.

People have begun to sign up to assist with the upcoming welcome party, including set-up, food, drinks, etc. Mary Lou has asked for assistance to supervise children and any activities at the party.

4) Safety –

The safety committee will meet next week to discuss Fenway Rd. options. The bump-out option seems to be the easiest of the options to implement; the rate of traffic does not meet established standards for consideration of speed bumps. The committee will present recommendations to the Board. The previous CSCA point-of contact on the traffic discussions, Tony Demarinis, has some County study documentation that could be useful.

Phil Rider will contact Tony Demarinis regarding the Montgomery County traffic study documentation.

5) Covenants –

Jack Orrick continues with his effort to correlate property lots with the appropriate covenants. He has been cross-referencing the information he has with on-line County data.

Jack Orrick will review and update the online covenant information to include all Carderock properties.

6) Beautification –

Georgia Petsche provided a written update on the Beautification efforts which Phil read aloud for meeting discussion. A primary topic of discussion was the cost estimate received to repair the Carderock Springs entrance sign on the corner of Lilly Stone Dr. and Persimmon Tree Rd. The estimated cost was very expensive. Phil received input from Georgia and Lisa Wilcox Deyo on the estimate and work summary. He would like to have a targeted group review the entrance sign issue to generate additional feedback. Phil will forward an e-mail from Jonathan Graham to the Board with additional details, including summary of work and cost.

Phil Rider will forward to the Board an e-mail from Jonathan Graham with summary of Carderock Springs entrance sign work.

7) Treasurer's Report –

Tom Hilton distributed copies and discussed the contents of the current CSCA Treasure's Report. He discussed the cost of tax preparation and suggested that there might be someone in the community who could provide this service at a lower cost.

Phil asked how the CSCA fiscal year is defined. It was not clear whether the fiscal year correlated with Board member elections, meaning an April start or whether the fiscal year followed the calendar year in accordance with tax documents.

A discussion was also held regarding newcomers and membership dues. The consensus was that at this point in the year, newcomers should not be asked to pay CSCA dues until the next dues cycle arrives.

The question of who has voting rights within the CSCA was also discussed. The consensus was that non-paying community members do not have voting rights on CSCA issues. This position is supported by and documented in the community By-laws.

Tom Hilton to check community interest and availability of a qualified person to assist with CSCA tax preparations

The Treasurer's Report was approved

8) Membership –

The directory is expected to be printed out by September 21. The data has been reviewed and edited by multiple persons to reduce errors and omissions.

The question of CSCA membership included a discussion of the relationship with CSCA and the Carderock Springs South neighborhood. South Carderock currently has a neighborhood association with Keith Woodard serving as the president. Jack Orrick will investigate the relationship between CSCA and South Carderock.

Mary Lou has received feedback from some of the older community members that they are feeling 'passed by' on neighborhood updates and concerns. This was particularly true for those residents that did not have computer access. The community newsletter was mentioned as a good, neighborhood wide communication tool but that has fallen off as a regular communication. Phil thought that this was being picked up and reinvigorated but nothing substantial has occurred yet.

Phil would like the Directory Committee to begin working on next year's directory with the idea to continue to improve content.

Jack Orrick to investigate relationship between CSCA and South Carderock.

Barbara Ames will provide a hard-copy proof from the printer to Tom and Mary Lou for review.

9) Mission Statement –

The latest version of the CSCA Mission Statement was presented and read through. Carderock Springs Citizens' Association Mission Statement:

“To preserve and enhance the quality of life of all residents in the Carderock Springs community by providing a forum for intra-community interests, offering hospitality to newcomers, maintaining, as appropriate, the common or public areas in the community, representing the community before governmental agencies, and enforcing the covenants for the community in accordance with the recorded Declarations, including appointing the members of the Architectural Review Committee to review and approve residents' plans for exterior modifications and removal of trees.

This Mission is accomplished through the work of volunteers on the Carderock Springs Citizens Association Board, Architectural Review Committee and various Board-appointed committees.”

Having been revised and edited several times previous, there was little critical discussion and the Mission Statement was approved by the Board. It was agreed that the Mission Statement should be included in the Directory.

The Mission Statement was approved.

Include the Mission Statement in future versions of the Community Directory.

10) Tree Removal –

Phil distributed for comment a draft write-up provided by Lisa Wilcox Deyo. He noted that he receives lots of question regarding tree removal and ARC review/approval. After discussion by the Board, it was decided that the following items characteristics should be added as okay for removal: diseased trees, saplings and pines/softwoods.

Phil said that the Cabin John Association recently had an event that included a “green group”. The group contacted Phil and asked whether they could participate in a Carderock Springs event. Phil replied that there are no upcoming event planned that would be appropriate. Phil asked the Board to consider how to sponsor/conduct such events.

Phil to coordinate with Lisa Wilcox Deyo to include diseased trees, saplings and pines/softwoods as trees that are qualify for removal without approval.

The Board to consider how to sponsor/conduct community interest events or speakers.

11) Architectural Review Committee –

Phil asked about the relationship of the ARC with the CSCA Board. The consensus was that the ARC is a committee of the CSCA Board. The CSCA By-laws specify the number of ARC members to be appointed.

Lisa Deyo Wilcox, recently named as the neighborhood Tree Consultant, is independent of the ARC. An ARC Liaison person, proposed at the August Board meeting, would similarly not be a member of the ARC but would serve as an adjunct of the Board.

The ARC discussion prompted the comment that ARC decisions are not readily available. The consensus was that community members would like to see decisions posted or available in some fashion.

Phil Rider to draft a job description for the ARC liaison.

12) Miscellaneous –

The October meeting was tentatively scheduled as one of two annual ‘general’ meetings. To allow for more planning, the general meeting has been moved to November. Discussion of possible topics for the November general meeting included asking persons to share some personal experiences in other countries and cultures. Other ideas are welcome.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for the first Monday of October.

Meeting Adjourned.