

Carderock Springs Citizens Association
Minutes from Board Meeting on March 20, 2023

Held via Zoom.

Board Members present: Jack Orrick, Maja Husar, Ashish Goel, Susan Eastman, Meaghan Sullivan Curry, Katalin Roth

Board Members absent: Ashkan Malayeri

Community members present: Rick Wilson, Katherine Stifel, Kimberly Young, Karen Ringo, Gary Ratner

Jack Orrick called the meeting to order around 7:30 pm.

Agenda:

1. Approval of February Board meeting minutes
2. Treasurer's report for February; 2023 dues notices – paper copies
3. International Potluck – March 26, House Tour – May 21, Progressive
4. Nominating Committee for 2023-2024 Board; officer positions for 2023
5. Directory Database update from A to Z
6. Format of Annual Meeting May 7- guest speaker from MoCo Government Energy Connection
7. Old Business – Tree Guidelines and ARC Design Guidelines; Village, Beltway widening; Knob sign rehab
8. New Business
9. Next Meeting (April 17); newsletter deadline

Item 1: Approval of February Minutes

No comments on minutes. Deemed approved.

Item 2: Treasurer's Report – Ashish Goel

Second batch email was sent to all members –so far dues were paid by 218 out of 557 total household that are a part of CSCA. The typical target is 350 households; 60% paid via Venmo – there no fees so it is the preferred payment method.

Expenses:

Letters are going out on March 21; Expenses involved in dues notice mailing: 500 post stamps, printing, toner and envelopes

\$100 donation to Quiet Skies

\$100 donation to West Montgomery County – Potomac / Seven Locks to support their discussion with the county on gov funding. Historical donations like that help us stay connected to other neighborhood organizations.

In December we closed one of CDs and will be reinvesting money this month (aiming for 5% rate). Ashish will compare rates to other banks beyond our bank Lafayette is our current bank.

Sue mentioned that Vanguard Money Market fund is attractive option as well (but offers flexible rates.)

Item 3: Social Events

- International Potluck Dinner on March 26 – 22 families RSVPed so far
- Home Tour on May 21 - 2 out of needed 5 houses signed up. Last event was in 2015; Jack passed the brochure from the last tour he organized – homes that underwent renovations are great candidates.
- Progressive Dinner planned for May 13 – only one person interested so far, may move to fall. Looking for ideas to make people open to hosting and participating, will gauge interest by April 13.

Item 4: Nominating Committee for 2023-2024 Board; officer positions for 2023

- Steve and Brian are potential new members recruited by Ashkan, possibly for a Treasury and Co-Secretary
- Still looking for a Co-President, Vice-President
- Need to choose new treasurer
- Rick Wilson - added his name as nominees for the board
- Looking for a new newsletter editor
- Ashish could use help staffing envelopes with a letter reminding of dues.

Item 5: A-to-Z Database Contract

We used to update database ourselves. Five years ago A-to-Z approached the board and offered free of charge update of the database based on printed directory (paid). We printed one directory and then a second with A to Z in Fall 2021. A to Z sent Jack a new contract which indicated that we are going to print new directory in 2023 (required print every year), but we don't see a need for a new directory every year, so A to Z was charging a license fee of \$300 for online database. This contract would run until July 31, 2024. 2024 may be the next print. Advantages of staying with A to Z are that there is an on-line directory is easy to update, people can do it themselves and we do not need to maintain a database ourselves. A-to-Z charges advertising cost, CSCA gets 10% of that. New contract provides that the cost per printed directory book is increased to \$5 (from \$3.50) –we generally print around 700 copies. Besides initial distribution to all families, the extra directories are inserted in the Welcome Packages when people move in (along with convenance and info on the swim & tennis club). We occasionally use email functionality in the online database, for social events only. For using A-to-Z in years we do not print a directory we would pay the license fee of \$300. End of 2021 was the last print. Jack raised concern about the surprise charge for the years in which we don't print the directory and board agreed to ask Jack to go back to A to Z to at least have them add to the contract that if we do print a directory in 2024 we will have no license fee and the cost per book would not be increased above \$5..

Item 6: Annual Meeting – May 7

Speaker organized by Diane Karlik – Montgomery County, Government Energy Connection

Jack will not be physically in town – will pass agenda from prior meetings – social hour, short business meeting, elections and recognition that helped and a speaker – Maja volunteered to lead the meeting

In the next newsletter

- Text of Bylaw for Amendment (10 days in advancement by law)
- Bios of the three new board members

Item 7: Old Business

- Anne Carlson planted daffodils at the entrances – asked the board for \$500 to buy more bulbs to replace what was damaged during road washout to be planted in fall (deer-resistant) – Jack proposed to make an amendment to accommodate for that – first planting was in memory of Mary Lou Shannon. Line items for neighborhood beautification - \$100 currently, board agreed to extend it to \$500.
- Carderock Village updated was given by Maja Husar and Sue Eastman;
- Gary –ARC 2007 design guidelines are to be updated to include provisions of section 2 of provision guidelines (ARC) not sure if ARC will be supportive to change the guidelines to be approved by the board – Gary will get language for this section by the end of the week for the board to approve. Additionally, Jack will share proposed changes he noted as suggestions for ARC to update. Committee prepared a standard form for homeowners (or they could send a letter) – could be accessed on the website. Communication should be including all members of ARC, they need to know ahead of time to be able to make a decision faster. Collaborative approach between ARC and the Board is very welcome. ARC members and CSCA members will receive the proposed form and language by the end of the week
- Beltway Widening is on hold – the Transurban company is no longer involved in. the project
- Ken Hinga has done an inventory of knob signs and what needs to be done for rehab of same. One knob was missing the name on Lily Stone. Jason Cameron donated an extra \$50 and was interested in helping rehab his knob sign, his children will do research on indigenous people that lived in this area to honor them by naming the knob.

Item 8: New Business

CUPPA – suggestions to get a coffee machine to make the cost of coffee lower

Item 9: Next Board Meeting – April 17

The next board meeting will be on April 17th, 2023. Articles for the newsletter due March 31.

Respectfully submitted,

Maja Husar, Co-secretary

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