

Carderock Springs Citizens Association

Minutes from the Board Meeting on November 20, 2023

Held via Zoom.

Board Members present: Jack Orrick, Rick Wilson, Maja Husar, Ashkan Malayeri, Brian Glenn, Katalin Roth

Board Members absent: Ashish Goel, Sue Eastman, Meaghan Sullivan Curry, and Steven Seitz

Community members present: Jennifer Hughes, Kyle Lierman, Gershon Ratner, Stefan LoBuglio, Katherine Stifel

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

Agenda:

1. Approval of October Board meeting minutes – see attached
2. Treasurer's report for October – Ashish
3. Update to Beltway widening – Jack and Rick attended the MDOT open house on 11/13; Kyle Lierman participated in the Consulting Party conference call with Steve Archer
4. Traffic Safety Committee – updates? – Rick
5. Discussion on updating ARC Covenants to include Tree Committee/other comments
6. Village program – updates?
7. 2024 dues – any increase?
8. Old Business – Knob sign rehab; daffodil planting
9. New Business -

Item 1: Approval of October Meeting Minutes:

They are deemed approved.

Item 2: Treasurer's report:

None.

Item 3: Update on Beltway widening:

- Jack and Rick gave an update on the open house held on November 13 at BCC high school by MDOT.
- No new significant updates – MDOT appears to be waiting on a funding decision, which may include federal grants, state transportation funds and/or P3 project. We will start with the same design plans that had been developed during P3 project with Transurban which are in the neighborhood of 30% complete.
- There is a lot of uncertainty about the future of the project, particularly on funding

- Our former consultant at VHB, Drew Morrison, is now working at MDOT. Jack and Rick spoke with him at the Open House, and he has indicated a willingness to meet with our community once more definite plans are developed.
- No Action is expected immediately.
- Kyle Lierman gave an update on the consulting party call with Steven Archer. There are no milestones from them.
- He inquired about any studies on air quality, mainly since the school is next to the beltway, which appears to be an issue that is not seriously considered. There was some discussion of historic preservation, and a concern that planting trees would “cost lots of money.”
- One option would be to harmonize our efforts with organizations such as Citizens Against Beltway Widening and Sierra Club.
- Jack reminded the Board and others that the website contains extensive information on the issue, including a letter to Secretary Buttigieg regarding the issues. He also noted that not all members of the Carderock community are opposed to Beltway expansion.

Item 4: Traffic Safety Committee:

- Jennifer Hughes has received some information from Montgomery County DOT that there are revised regulations on speed humps coming that will significantly affect the ability to use these on Fenway Rd. In the past, Fenway Road was not eligible for speed humps because it lacked sufficient volumes of traffic. She believes that the proposed new regulations may be published by January with adoption a month or so later.
- The committee believes that speed humps are still the best alternative at this time
- The committee will survey the affected homeowners between Carderock Spring Drive and Lilly Stone Drive to understand where folks standing on traffic calming measures.
- The regulations will likely still require that a public meeting of the entire community be held on any planned installation of speed humps.
- The County regulations on speed humps now provide, and are likely to provide in the future, that the vote to approve speed humps will be by folks who are immediately adjacent to the Fenway Rd and from feeder streets with no egress, with an 80% approval required by adjacent owners and smaller percentage from feeder streets.
- A speed study conducted by the County this fall will be available soon to support the claim that there is a speeding problem on Fenway Rd.
- The committee has committed to explore other traffic calming measures if speed humps are not approved, including dynamic speed signs to make the driver aware of the speed.
- Jack suggested that an article be prepared for the January newsletter to describe the contents of the new regulations if available by then,

Item 5: Discussion on updating ARC Covenants to include Tree Committee/other comments:

- Jack gave a brief background on the history of Tree Committee and its revised tree removal guidelines.
- Katherine mentioned that the Tree Committee and Architecture Committee have had an informal get together to know each other. Gary thanked Katherine for her efforts to move the issue forward within the ARC, and to include the Tree Committee in discussions of amendments.

- Jack has submitted additional comments on the ARC Design Guidelines to the ARC.
- There will be an ARC meeting on the 29th of November in which the comments from Jack and the Tree Committee will be discussed. There will be a joint meeting between the ARC and Tree Committee on December 16 to update the ARC guidelines with the goal of presenting these to the Board in January meeting and getting the final approval from the board in February 2024. Still to be discussed are what communication efforts need to be undertaken to make the community aware of the revised guidelines.
- The new ARC guidelines will detail requirements for Tree Removal and also justifications for keeping the architectural structure of the neighborhood sound.
- Jack clarified that If only a tree renovation is needed, the applicant will go to the Tree Committee, and if there is a need for renovation and tree removal, then they will start by filing a motion through ARC.
- Again, an article in the January newsletter may be appropriate.
- Rick raised the issue of difficulties in enforcement of ARC and Tree Committee rules. Gary mentioned reference to the Covenants, and said more aggressive efforts are justified. Jack said those arguments are bolstered by the recently amended Bylaws.

Item 6: 2024 dues increase:

- Jack mentioned that per our Bylaws, if the Board needs to raise the dues, we need to give a 60-day notice to the community. Since we typically e-mail or mail dues notices out by early February, the Board needs to decide at this meeting if it wants to raise dues.
- The current feeling is that we do not need to increase the dues at the moment.

Item 7: New Knob Sign – Wiwish Knob:

- Sue Eastman has been working with Ken Hinga and the family that lives on this knob to get a new sign installed that indicates the name approved by the Board – Wiwish Knob.

Item 8: Village update

- There will be more emphasis on making the meeting more intergenerational and involving the younger generation.
- Maja mentioned the successes of Cuppa and the development of a new Walking Group among their efforts to bring the community together.
- This year's plan is to make sure that residents will come together for common activities.
- The next CUPPA meeting will be on December 17th.

Item 9: New business:

- None.

The next meeting will be on January 15th. No newsletter until after January Board meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Ashkan A. Malayeri, Secretary

4884-9187-9570, v. 4