

GDCA Board Meeting  
January 13th, 2020

**Attendees**

Sara Kelly  
Jenny Girard  
Kevin Swatt  
Ranjeet Singh  
Scot Walker  
Pat Powell  
Iris Trieb  
Ana Letona

Our next Board meeting proposed for Monday, February 24th.  
The main goal will be to get all of our community events scheduled.

Please welcome our newest Board Member, Ana Letona, who lives on Winchester!

**Treasurer Report**

Additional funds were spent this year over last, mostly due to the new neighbor event and purchase of new signs (one time expense). Income was also higher so we have more funds compared with last year. There is a newsletter due out in the Spring, but that should be revenue neutral with ads.

**Bats/Bees/Garden topic**

A resident was inquiring about building a bat house in the Park because bats are beneficial, they eat lots of mosquitoes. While it may be beneficial, the following needs to be investigated before it can be considered: it can't be built on park land without county permission, and once built there needs to be a maintenance plan in place that is beyond the capabilities of the Board.

However, an idea to raise awareness was to hold a workshop in late March by the individual who raised the issue to educate residents on building bat houses. We could also offer one for bee keeping as we have several beekeepers in the neighborhood. Additionally this would be an ideal time to have an educational session on the impacts of pesticides and herbicides. Scot is following up with the resident who raised the bat house suggestion and we have contacts for the pesticide/herbicide discussion.

**Rt. 29 Task Force update**

The second engagement session with the public was held by the VA Tech students in December, 2019. Their report has since been given to the Task Force for review. At some point this spring, after the Task Force has finished reviewing it, it will be open for public review.

Additionally, the Task Force has set up a Fallschurch29.org website for residents to follow the progress of the Task Force.

The schedule for the Rt. 29 changes that were already are planned by Falls Church City before the Tech students project, including updating bus stops and adding a stop light at Maple Avenue and Lee Highway, is at the moment currently unknown.

**Update on Summerfield RPPD**

Upon the request of Lisa Welde last fall, Summerfield Rd., the GDCA Board submitted a request to Providence Supervisor's office for an extension of the RPPD on Summerfield Rd. Lisa is in charge of that project and when she has gathered the required signatures from the residents she will send them to the Board and depending on the results, VDOT will either grant or not grant the requested RPPD zone.

## **Review of 2019 Events**

Questions to keep in mind: what worked, didn't work, what, if anything, should we change.

- Block Party: Baskets were well-received; membership drive was successful. Next year, need to purchase more frozen pops and check out additional options for a food truck. Pat will check with District Taco. Ana suggested adding a dog rescue presence. Iris suggested that we could help the face painter keep lines better organized and signal to the kids that the face painter is getting to the end of their time.
- Meet & Greet: Successful, but having a more inclusive meet and greet with a way to identify new residents would be better as attendance wouldn't need to be limited. We'd need a venue that can accommodate additional people without significant cost. Options raised were Beach Shack, Four Provinces outside, Pizzeria Orso, Audacious Aleworks. Targeted scheduling for this would be springtime.
- Holiday House Decorating Contest: This does not seem to really engage the community as a whole, so we could potentially switch to a Halloween decoration Contest instead. Halloween has a much wider appeal to families with children and is more inclusive of all our residents. Categories suggested were 1. Scariest; 2. Most original.

Jefferson Village usually hosts the Easter egg hunt for kids. More details later.

- Yard sale (summer) This is usually a joint venture between Jefferson Village and Greenway Downs. More information later in the spring.

## **Review of Communications with Greenway Downs Residents**

Questions to consider: how are we doing, do we reach enough of our residents, how can we engage more residents.

Spring Newsletter:

This newsletter is delivered to every house in Greenway Downs. It will come out in late spring and will have the May Annual GDCA meeting notice.

Community Survey:

We could design a community survey for the Spring to determine what residents like, don't like, would like to see etc. Possible means would be Jot Form. The goal is to improve communications and get people engaged in the community

Other ways to effect community out reach:

Another suggestion was to try something similar to Sleepy Hollow and hold wine and cheese or beer and hotdog events. Kevin/Pat were identified as potentially holding the first one in June.

Code Ninja's had made us an offer we could consider for a kid's event. More homework to be done on this.