

## Greenway Downs Annual Meeting

May 18, 2016

Graham Road Elementary School

7-9 pm

Thank you all who attended the GDCA Annual Meeting. Here is a summary for those of you who were unable to attend.

GDCA Board members present:

Bruce MacNair	President
Lisa French	
Jenny Girard	
Sara Kelly	Secretary

Bruce thanked retiring Board members Scot Walker (treasurer) and Ross Farnham (vice-president) for their invaluable contributions to the community this year.

Those present unanimously returned the incumbent members, Bruce MacNair, Lisa French, Jenny Girard, Asha Beh and Sara Kelly to the 2016-2017 GDCA Board, and also unanimously approved four new Board members:

Kara Klousia (Cameron)  
Lisa Welde (Summerfield)  
Maureen Minard (Cameron)  
Dana Diaz (Greenway)

---

### Topics of Note

#### **Marshall Street Traffic Calming Initiative**

Marshall Street is on the cusp of receiving 3 new speed humps, one of which is replacing the old one. 90% of the effected residents voted

in favor of the 3 humps affected residents. The last phase for final approval for the traffic calming measure will go before the Fairfax County Board of Administration in June, and the proposed installation should begin in September.

## **Traffic in General**

There was much discussion about speeding traffic on other Greenway Downs roads— in particular Summerfield, especially over the hill from Route 29 and near misses for those who are backing out of their driveways. Winchester, downhill towards Custis and cars running the stop sign. Woodlawn used as a cut-thru when the Marshall light is red, drivers going too fast—Marshall street at the stop light end—

Suggestion: crosswalks—apparently the county will only install crosswalks from sidewalk to sidewalk, and many of our streets have sidewalks on only one side.

Suggestion: a street can decide to pursue traffic calming measures, put together a street task force to spearhead the effort, and ask the GDCA Board for help to guide the task force through the process with the County.

Comments:

General discussion about the effects the construction of the new buildings on the Falls Church side of Route 29.

Rumors that we may lose our dedicated turn lanes on Route 29. Apparently, this was understood in earlier discussions with the Falls Church Planning Commission, but may no longer apply.

Link for or further

information: <http://www.fallschurchva.gov/1520/Transp...>

Concerns that once Fresh Market opens on Route 29, Greenway Downs will become a cut-through.

Concerns about overflow parking from the Falls Church developments on Lee Highway.

Report:

The corner of Cavalier/Winchester, north ends of Greenway and Summerfield have received residential parking restriction signs. The parking restrictions are applicable Monday-Friday business hours. The County provides free stickers for residential cars. This has provided some relief from overflow parking from the Falls Church side of Route 29.

Link: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/rtap.htm#cpd](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/rtap.htm#cpd)

Suggestion: Perhaps Greenway Downs could explore restricted “pass through” hours like Falls Church City –

## **John Mastenbrook Park**

### **New Swings**

Bruce reported that the County was very cooperative in paying ½ the costs for the new swings in John Mastenbrook Park, and there was a neighborhood celebration last Fall.

### **Eagle Scout Project**

An Eagle Scout from St. James Troop 681 completed his Eagle Scout Project. The scout was happy to choose our park for his project, and was very pleased that his troop and many of our residents braved such rainy day to tackle the bamboo removal project.

Thanks to the Scout Project, Sara reported that we have now received permission from the FCPA to continue the effort to contain the bamboo in the park and will organize a semi-annual event to combat invasive species.

## **Neighborhood Watch**

Bruce thanked Paul Garcia (not present) for his years of dedicated service to the Neighborhood Watch Program. Paul retired last year and Jeff Taylor became the new coordinator.

Jeff gave an overview of the program, and an update on recent activities. He works closely with Mark Moffat and Peter Beckman in the Jefferson Village NWP, and though we generally have a safe neighborhood, there have been many incidents of car break-ins on both sides of the neighborhood.

Jeff reminded everyone to lock car doors. The people responsible for ransacking vehicles seem to be after loose change, i-phones, etc. and we do not want to encourage them by being easy targets.

Suggestion:

Keep up with neighborhood events and activities by joining Next Door at [www.jeffersonvl/greenwaydns.nextdoor.com](http://www.jeffersonvl/greenwaydns.nextdoor.com)

There is a specific section for “crime and safety.”

Jeff invited residents to join the Watch program—the purpose is to monitor the neighborhood for suspicious activity and report such activity to the police so they can nip it in the bud. Monitoring can be as easy as walking your dog! Anyone who would like to help with the Watch Program, contact Jeff at [Jeffreytaylor71@hotmail.com](mailto:Jeffreytaylor71@hotmail.com)

Comment:

A resident had his house ransacked about 5 years ago, and an attempted break-in last May.

Discussion:

Recently, on Next Door, another resident reported that he thought his house was being cased by a car with tinted windows –he reported it to the police and apparently the police were already looking for such a car. A good reason to monitor Next Door and remind your neighbors to keep an eye out.

**Senior Lunches**

Scot Walker organized Senior Lunches this year, and according to one of the participants present at this meeting, these lunches are a lot of fun and highly recommends them. The next lunch will be June 6 at the Hunan, corner of Summerfield and Lee Hway. All are welcome to come.

### **Social Committee Events**

Bruce thanked the members of the GDCA Social Committee for all the great events they have organized. The next event will be a September Greenway Downs Block Party, which is in the organizational phase. If anyone would like to help with that event, please contact Lisa French at [lisamarielifrench@gmail.com](mailto:lisamarielifrench@gmail.com). The committee would especially like at least one representative for each street.

### **Newsletter, Directory and Membership**

Sara reported that the “The Downs” Newsletter is a quarterly publication and is delivered electronically to about 1/3 of Greenway Downs. The rest are hand-delivered hardcopies. The goal is to solicit more emails for e-delivery and she passed around a clipboard for people at the meeting to switch over.

“The Downs” is also available as a pdf on the Greenway Downs website [www.greenwaydowns.org](http://www.greenwaydowns.org). Sara has also posted archived copies of old newsletters that go back to 1969.

### **Other Topics of Discussion**

#### **Dog Poop:**

Lisa Welde proposed the idea of hiring an outside company to install dog-waste stations. After some discussion, it was noted that the issue is getting people to pick it up in the first place—and there is a neighborhood effort to raise this awareness with new reminder signs and plastic bag receptacles.

#### **Community Walk-ways:**

A resident noted that there is a “path” that connects Summerfield and Greenway, but is overgrown and looks impassable.

Apparently, this is an easement of for either water or utility, that used to be passable on foot—but over the years either residents built on it or the vegetation took over. This is considered homeowner property and we are not allowed to go in and clean it out.

This right-of-way is different from Cavalier Trail that connects Cameron to Marshall and the smaller Rodriguez Trail that connects Greenway Blvd to Marshall. These are well-established and recognized trails. Jeff Taylor noted that the county was responsive when he called and asked them to clear part of the overgrowth on the smaller Trail.

Submitted by Sara Kelly