

Greenway Downs Citizens Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Location: Home of Lisa French, 2809 Marshall St.
Date/Time: Monday, September 14, 2015

Present:
Bruce MacNair
Ross Farnham
Scot Walker
Sara Kelly
Lisa French
Asha Beh
Jenny Girard

Absent:
Paul Hart
Bob Mansker

Old Business:

Board approved the July 13, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

SWINGS PROGRESS REPORT

Bruce reported that the County planned to install the swings in early September. To date, the structures are in place, but not the swings themselves.

ACTION ITEM:

Bruce will organize an ice cream social event for the community to celebrate when the swings go in.

MARSHALL STREET

Bruce reported that the traffic study from last year has expired. He has contacted Linda Smyth's office and initiated a new traffic calming study, which will take place after school starts. Bruce will follow up on the progress of that study.

Question: Did the petition expire? No, because the petition for Marshall street was initiated by Board members during that time to get around the issue of Bob Mansker opposing traffic calming measures on Marshall street in principle.

Lisa said she would track our progress on the Marshall traffic calming plans to make sure we are on top of all the steps needed to get the traffic calming measures and avoid going beyond the 1 year deadline.

ACTION ITEM:

Bruce will speak to the home owner who is concerned about the sign in front of his window.

CAVALIER, SUMMERFIELD, WINCHESTER & GREENWAY PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Scot reported that Greenway Blvd. has 60% of the needed signatures to proceed with the RPPD.

One issue has been that some residents living in rentals do not want RPPD—partly because they have so many cars per house—which may indicate they are over the limit on occupancy.

Lisa indicated that the owner has to sign the petition anyway, so these renters are not an issue.

Cavalier has 2 houses and both signed off.

The VDOT traffic study only approved RPPD on the East side of Summerfield and 60% of those houses have approved it.

Two of the three houses on Winchester have signed off.

As soon as the petitions are returned, Scot will deliver them to Linda Smyth's office.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Paul Garcia retired and Jeff Taylor is now coordinator for Neighborhood Watch. There are 17 volunteers, and he and Scot are working on including dog walkers.

Question: Scot asked the Board could do to honor Paul Garcia. Sara, based on intel from a friend of the Garcia's, suggested a Great American Restaurant gift card.

Board Vote:

The Board honored Paul Garcia by approving a gift card and a letter of thanks for his years of service.

Another way of honoring Mr. Garcia would be to ask the Police Dept. to send him a letter of commendation.

ACTION ITEM:

Sara will contact Jeff Taylor to ask Officer Pat. Lucas for such a letter.

Scot and Bruce reported that GDCA officers had a meeting with Mark Moffet, the neighborhood watch coordinator from Jefferson Village.

Bruce reported that Mark is a dog enthusiast/ trainer and has organized folks with dogs to band together and patrol at 3 o'clock in the morning. This has been effective in spotting funky stuff going on. Jenny noted that Mark has posted much of the information on Next Door.

Sara reported that Paul Hart, who could not attend this evening's meeting, said that he had investigated the idea of employing an outside security company, but was still working on following the leads.

Scot reported that Mark Moffett had also pursued that idea, and decided it was not feasible for Jefferson Village due to costs.

Based on this information, and the effectiveness of the newly revamped Neighborhood Watch Program, the consensus is that an outside security company is not cost feasible.

UPDATE ON MAP CORRECTIONS

Jenny reported that she has submitted corrections to TigerWeb, a mapping system maintained by the Census Bureau—the system of record for maps—and these corrections should trickle down to the companies that use that source data. At this point, Google has our streets mapped correctly. It is very difficult to figure out what other companies use for their source.

DIRECTORY PROGRESS

Sara reported that Bolling and Lee Highway are complete.

The three streets that need the most work are Woodlawn, Marshall and Summerfield

ACTION ITEM:

Sara will send Lisa and Bruce the list for Marshall

Prior to the meeting, Sara and Scot had circulated a draft copy of the first two pages of the Directory for comment.

Board Vote:

Approved the above mentioned draft copy of the Directory, with some minor corrections.

NEW BUSINESS

TREASURER REPORT

Scot reported that GDCA has \$9771. The swings are paid for.

Scot also noted, for future reference, that the different option levels of donations on the membership form resulted in many members contributing \$25 or more.

Sara reported that the projected cost of the Directory would be \$2.17 each, and at 480 copies would be \$1041.

Scot reported that he, Ross and Cathy Thatcher raised \$1475 in ad money for the Directory.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Scot asked that the Board vote to allow social committee members to buy supplies for events and then submit receipts for reimbursement. There was some discussion of limiting the amount.

Board Vote:

Board voted to allow social committee members to submit receipts to Scot for reimbursement for events.

Scot handed out a document with all the Social Committees and their chairpersons and members. (Sara: note to self ADD TO MINUTES OF MEETING)

Asha signed up for the Neighborhood Watch committee, and Scot will send her Jeff Taylors contact information.

Asha also joined the traffic abatement committee.

Lisa and Kara will reach out to Jefferson Village regarding the Kids Halloween Parade. In the past JV has hosted this and Heather Embrey, of Jefferson Village is the contact person. Lisa and Kara will keep us informed.

Scot is sponsoring the Senior Lunch in November. He has recruited Mary Millsback to help identify our older residents, and has approached Mr. Woody and Edna McCormick. The first lunch will be at the Italian Café. Sara will provide rides for those who need one.

DISCUSSION ABOUT COMMITTEE PUBLICATION

The question is where and what kind of information to publish for committees and chairpersons.

The consensus is that GDCA will list the Committees and the chairpersons in the Directory.

We could publish the Committees with brief descriptions and a contact email—like Bruce's, and he would redirect prospective inquiries to the relevant chairperson.

No real resolution on this last issue.

CUSTIS STREAM

Scot reported that residents had noted on their membership forms the issues concerning the Custis Park overgrowth.

Scot gave Sara a 35 page report on the historical background on Custis, that explains the legal ownership limbo. The original ownership documents were lost, and we will have to push this issue with the County in order to clean up the park. Scot noted that poison ivy is a native plant, and therefore protected, so we cannot remove it.

Scot will continue to lead this effort.

ACTION ITEM:

Sara will scan the document and send to Board

RIGHT-OF-WAY ISSUE

Scot reported that Jeff Taylor has noted that a neighbor built a shed on the right-of-way section in a storm water abatement area.

The question is whether the Board should get involved in making this an issue with the shed owner.

The Board resolved that since no one is complaining, the Board will not pursue the issue.

BOARD TRANSPARENCY

Sara raised the question of how to open Board meetings to GDCA residents.

What rules to set, such as rsvp's, and how and where to post such information.

Lisa volunteered to be the contact email for anyone who wished to attend a meeting, since we meet in her house. Suggested time for visitors would be 8:30-8:45.

Resolved, that we would post the date of the next meeting by Facebook pinning and Next Door.

ACTION ITEM:

Sara will draft and circulate to the Board a posting before publicizing.

There was also a discussion about posting GDCA meeting minutes. It is resolved that we will post them on FaceBook (pinning section).

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

We belong to the SCC and Scot 's name is now on file as our contact. His legal name for the filing is William Patrick Walker. (attach document)

LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

The Board approved letters of commendation Scot wrote to Cathy Thatcher (for her work selling ads); Eric Ramos (for his help maintaining Tripps Run; Amanda Leslie, Tim Roberts and Mark Southward (for their efforts on the RRPD project).

BOARD VOTE:

To send such letters.

ACTION ITEM:

Bruce will sign and send them with the letterhead.

EMAIL FROM BOB MANSKER

Following the reminder of the upcoming Board meeting Bob emailed back that he had "a County Tax Assesment Board meeting every Monday evening." (emailed attached)

This led to a discussion of Bob's recent behavior towards other Board members who have asked him for paperwork/information because he had been the President of GDCA since 2004. It appears that Bob has been dismissive, and uncooperative, and has only attended one Board meeting since May.

Sara circulated a draft copy of the first two pages of the Directory to the Board for comment, and Bob responded with the following:

..."We always received good comments about the Directory, each time it was published and had inquiries as to when a new would be distributed. I know the new regime wants to do things it own way; however, I have no desire to have an opportunity to say ""I told you so."

As you know, you've just barely touched on the work required to put out a directory. I wish you luck."

Bob's choice of words such as "the new regime" and "I have no desire to have an opportunity to say "I told you so" indicate a lack of interest in serving along side the other Board members.(email attached)

The Board decided that since Bob has clearly indicated that he is not interested in furthering the work of the GDCA Board to help further the interests of the community, that he be removed from the Board under Article VI, section 8 of the GDCA Amended by-laws (1992). (see attached)

Board Vote: 6 votes for removal, 1 abstention.

ACTION ITEM:

Bruce will inform Bob of the Board's decision within 24 hours.

BOARD SEAT AVAILABLE

Question: How do we fill the empty Board member seat? The by-laws give the Board the power to fill the position.

After some discussion, it was resolved that we would advertise the position on Facebook and Next Door and ask interested people to contact the Board, identifying which street they live on. The idea is to get those streets not represented on the Board a chance to be so.

ACTION ITEM:

Lisa will approach Megan Dho, on Greenway, who had expressed an interest in May.

ACTION ITEM:

Sara to draft the wording (including the street) and circulate to the Board before advertising

WEBSITE

Sara reported that she purchased the Greenway Downs Domain name for \$17.98/year and the webspace for \$ 99/year—Jigsy.com is the host.

Board Vote:

Approved reimbursement to Sara for the webspace. and expenses for extra printing of newsletters and membership forms

Asha led a discussion of some possible content for the new website.

She suggested listing service recommendations –compiling them for the site, but also putting in a disclaimer for such service.

We noted that If information was collected from Next Door we would have to ask the original posting person first.

The Board was quite supportive of these ideas and Asha will follow up on this.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANLINESS

Asha has noticed a lot of trash and dog poop in the neighborhood. She raised the question of whether we could put up more signs. There is the issue of property—permission from homeowners- to put signs up.

ACTION ITEM:

Asha will contact Cathy Thatcher to find out a source for these signs.

TRAFFIC LIGHT AT MARSHALL

Asha raised the issue of how dangerous the crosswalk is at the intersection of Marshall and Lee Highway. She noted that her husband has already written the authorities, but something more needs to be done.

Some suggestions: take pictures of the dangers, and writing to the Newspaper for some publicity.

The issue of how to make it more pedestrian friendly remains unresolved, especially in light of the street changes likely to happen on Lee Highway due to Falls Church construction.

STREET LIGHTS

Asha has observed that many of our street lights are either out, or dim, and in some places more lights are needed.

Someone on Next Door just posted information about who to contact for those issues, so Asha will follow up.

NEWSLETTERS

After some discussion, the Board decided we would publish 3 newsletters a year. The next one, maybe early December, could go partly electronically, and the rest distributed by street reps.

Meeting adjourned

prepared by Sara Kelly
finalized October 15, 2015

amended comments: Scot Walker 10/15