

**Carderock Springs Citizens' Association
Minutes: August 9, 2021 Board Meeting
Meeting Held via Web due to Covid-19**

Board members present: Jack Orrick, Ashish Goel, Petra Jacobs, Sue Eastman, Gary Ratner, Katalin Roth

Community members present: Kimberly Carlins, Karen Ringo, Jeffrey Bean (?), Howard Evoy, Art Bruestle, Mark Johnson(?), Judith Mosher (?), Nicole Ferran, Kathryn Stifel, Jonathan Blythe

Meeting called to order by Jack Orrick at 7:33 p.m.

Agenda:

1. Approval of June Board meeting minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Aaron Kraut, aide to Councilmember Friedson to discuss negotiations on Beltway
4. Welcoming Committee reboot/Welcoming Potluck on September 26 – Karen Ringo and Kimberly Carlin
5. Update on sign refurbishment/National Register of Historic Places sign installation
6. Plans for printing new directory
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Next Meeting – September 20; Newsletter deadline

Item 1: Approval of June 21st Board meeting minutes

Approved, with clarification in Item 2 that, in addition to the Historic Registry sign ordered for corner of Persimmon Tree and Lilly Stone, second sign is for corner of River Road and Carderock Dr.

Item 2: Treasurer's Report – Ashish Goel

After second mailing, increased from 320 to 358 dues-paying members, exactly on pace with last year. Now finished with 2021 dues collection. Venmo is our preferred payment method; costs us about \$100 less than PayPal. Earned about \$600 interest on our certificates of deposit. Interest rate is only about 0.8 – 0.9%, less than previously.

We have almost \$7,700 to spend from our operating account before we'll need to draw down on our reserve account. Will incur expenses for Newcomer Reception in September and a Fall meeting later in the year. Total current balance in all accounts: \$95,000.

Item 3: Beltway Negotiations – Aaron Kraut, Transportation Aide to Councilmember Andrew Friedson

The whole Montgomery County Council asked the State Board of Public Works (BPW) to postpone its meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 11th on Beltway expansion until cost analysis had been done; no money has been provided to do the cost analysis. Aaron doesn't know if BPW will postpone its meeting.

Councilmember Friedson met with Comptroller Franchot to urge him not to vote for flyover ramps at River Road, but to keep any added Beltway lanes at grade level of existing I-495, and to support adding

noise barriers adjacent to Carderock Springs (C.S.) where such barriers do not already exist. A majority of members of the Regional Transportation Planning Board voted in their June meeting to remove Gov. Hogan's P3 Beltway expansion plan from the federally required Air Quality Analysis. But Gov. Hogan was so committed to having this plan approved before his gubernatorial term expires, he pressured Prince Georges County to reverse its opposition. At July meeting, Planning Board voted to restore the expansion plan as part of the Air Quality Analysis. Councilmember Friedson agreed to the restoration.

Attendees' questions and comments included:

Jack Orrick – When could the cost analysis be done and could it still be done if there was no funding for it? Howard Evoy praised Jack's letter to Secretary Buttigieg opposing expansion plan. Aaron agreed to Jack's request to have CM Friedson forward to Md. U.S. Senators and Congressman Raskin Jack's letter to Secretary Buttigieg. Jack said it makes a travesty of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for BPW to approve expansion plan before State has responded to CSCA's year-old comments on draft EIS. Judith ____ - It would be very difficult for fire trucks to exit the managed lanes.

Petra Jacobs – Is there a chance of getting federal funding for Beltway expansion rather than public-private partnership? C.S. needs to get State promise to install noise barriers along I-495 written in an official document; otherwise, based on past experience, promise will not be honored. Aaron didn't know if this promise could be included in BPW's approval of contractual agreement.

Kathryn Stifel - EIS needs to address harm to air quality caused by removal of trees.

Art Bruestle – What would be expansion plan's noise and air quality impact on Carderock Springs Elementary School? Aaron said he'd have to ask.

Jack thanked Aaron for coming and taking notes. Jack hopes that CM Friedson will raise these points and some will be heard.

Item 4: Signs

New National Register of Historic Places signs at entrances to C.S. have been installed. Jack thanked Ken Hinga for doing the work. Ken will send a pdf to Ashish reporting the costs.

C.S. has 18 total signs at entrances to the knobs and cul-de-sacs. Jack would appreciate it if folks would volunteer to paint these signs and let him or Sue Eastman know of their interest.

Item 5: Welcoming New Members – Karen Ringo and Kimberly Carlin

- a. Karen Ringo, a realtor who has lived in the neighborhood for 4-5 years, offered to welcome new neighbors by reconstituting the block captains and delivering a welcome packet to each new family. Jack thanked Karen. Karen is also planning to sponsor a block party, including a movie, for people living on her street – Park Overlook; would be paid for out of her business marketing account. She's trying to interest everyone in attending. Ashish pointed out Montgomery County might pay for such a party if it were sponsored by a non-profit.
- b. Kimberly Carlin reported that an outside event to welcome new residents is being planned for September 26th, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Discussion of this event included:

Dr. Katalin Roth – A potluck would be fine if done outdoors. We should assure people that we'll follow the Covid trends and guidelines applicable at the time of the event.

Katheryn Stifel - Bannockburn Community had a recent (outdoor?) event with pizza ordered on-line in advance and a 3-piece band, "Vandalays;" event was very well attended. Tanya Sinsler (?) organized all the food and drinks.

Kimberly – How should we resolve the question of potluck versus food trucks?

It was reported that Larry Ondrejko says the Club's pavilion would be available for the event.

Jack – There's usually been a short welcoming program for this event. It's possible CSCA could pay for newcomers or some portion of the event for all. "New residents" should include those moved in during last 2 years, since there was no welcoming event for 2019-20 newcomers due to Covid. There should be nametags for newcomers and their names should be announced during the event. Kathryn Stifel to follow up with checking on availability of the band. Jack will also send out a straw poll to the Board as to whether the Newcomer Dinner and Fall Event should be combined and a poll as to various alternatives for the Welcoming Event.

Item 6: New Directory

Jack – Next Newsletter will contain the last call for residents to send in their names and addresses for inclusion in the new Directory. We'll encourage local businesses to advertise in the Directory because that reduces CSCA's publishing costs. Jack welcomes ideas from Board members for updating the Directory.

Item 7: Old Business

None.

Item 8: New Business

None.

Item 9: Next Meeting – Sept. 20; Newsletter Deadline

Next meeting: Monday, September 20th – not much time before the Newcomers' Welcoming Event.

Newsletter: Will be sent out by early September.

Gary Ratner, Secretary