

Minutes from the CCHCA General Meeting-October 17, 2007

CCHCA Members in Attendance: Katie Baxter-Gagen, Hildie Carney, John Sabo, Steve Caruso, Katy Sidwell, Steve Lescure, Ernie Klimonda, Jill McNeil, Dia Pullen, Matt West, Livingston Johnson, Patrick Lee, Tom Peterson, Alan and Mary Anne Tomson, Doris W. Taylor, Pat Bonnes, Bob Farrell, Jeff Seffens, and Allen and Colleen Lewis

Guest Speakers, Chris Martin and Andrea Lowenwarter,

Chris Martin and Andrea Lowenwarter from the Fairfax City Historic Resources Department discussed the recent construction at Blenheim. Chris explained the issues regarding the construction of the driveway, parking lot, and bus circle. There will only be one entrance into Blenheim, which is from Old Lee Highway. A fence can be placed at the back of the property to restrict access.

The Interpretive Center will be placed where the old dairy barn was and will be barn-like in nature. The Interpretive Center will have an open area, two classrooms, two offices, a kitchen, and restrooms. A use policy has not been revised for Blenheim, however, there are no plans to rent the center for events. The center will be fully staffed and business hours will be from nine to five, six days per week, being closed Monday. The building was downsized by one-half to make it more historically appropriate. The total budget was 2.1 million dollars, which was considered a good value. Several historic relics have been recovered since construction began.

The trees on the property were post-dairy farm. There is a plan to replant some of the felled trees behind the homes on Old Post Road once the two retaining walls are built. Replanting will occur in the fall instead of the spring in response to community concerns. Trees and plantings will block the view of the parking area, etc. and will have a natural, forest-like appearance. The pipeline easements will be replanted, with the exception of a ten foot easement directly over the pipeline. A resident requested that the dilapidated fence belonging to Blenheim located behind the homes on Old Post Road be removed.

The deer and fox appear to have returned to the site. A resident asked about the replanting of ground cover. The ground cover will be grass. The resident noted that grass will not provide any shelter or food for animals and that a manicured grass cover does not consider the needs of the animals. Chris Martin indicated that there is not a current plan to plant animal friendly ground cover to replace that which has been lost. Hildie indicated that she is working closely with the landscapers and that they are responsive and cooperative. The resident indicated that before any plans for replanting are formalized the objectives of the replanting should be discussed with residents and that the restoration of wildlife friendly plantings be pursued. Please contact Hildie or Chris if you would like to be involved in the replanting decisions.

Board of Director Reports:

Katie Baxter-Gagen, President,

Concerns regarding the Blenheim project have been of high priority recently. Katie represented the CCHCA at a recent City Counsel meeting and at an on site meeting with the Mayor, several City

Counsel members, the project manager, several city officials, and the construction team. Several CCH residents also attended.

Katie has responded to concerns regarding the cleanliness and maintenance of properties in the neighborhood. In response Katie obtained City of Fairfax ordinances for property upkeep and trash pick up. Specific information regarding property upkeep and City of Fairfax ordinances will be posted on the CCHCA web site, with links to the appropriate City of Fairfax departments.

Katy Sidwell, VP Membership,

Membership has risen six percent since last week. However, only thirty-six percent of residents are currently members of the CCHCA, which is low. Renewal notices were distributed over the weekend. Please consider remitting dues as soon as possible.

Patrick Thomas, VP Community, Safety Liaison,

The City of Fairfax won a grant allowing the free distribution and installation of Carbon Monoxide detectors. Information is on the City of Fairfax web site and the program is conducted through the fire department. An e-mail will be distributed on the Yahoo group.

Steve Caruso, VP Community Safety, Adopt-A-Spot,

Although the creek cleanup in the spring was successful, the limited rainfall since that time has not carried enough new trash to our section of the creek to warrant a fall cleaning. Steve cleaned the trail at the end of Pinehurst and attached four trash cans to trees. The trash cans are being used by FHS students. Steve has been emptying the trash cans, and will continue to do so every month. He will contact FHS and ask if they would be able to monitor the trash cans. Additionally, Steve contacted Parks and Recreation regarding the possible repair of a dangerous spot on the path to FHS that seems to require repaving. The problem has been evaluated by the City and the types of repairs required are being addressed.

Ana Alanso, VP Publications,

Four news letters per year are published and flyers are distributed when needed. All residents are welcome and encouraged to submit items for the newsletter. Ana's e-mail address is available on the CCHCA website. November 11, 2007 is the next submission deadline. Steve Caruso volunteered to interview anyone willing to share historic stories or photographs for publication in the newsletter. One resident volunteered pictures. Hildie can provide a list of original owners.

Chad Hurley, VP Block Captains,

Chad thanked the block captains for their hard work and dedication. Please contact Chad if you are not receiving flyers, newsletters, etc.

Hildie Carney, VP Civic Affairs,

Please contact Hilde with any concerns regarding the construction at Blenheim. Hildie has maintained a vigilant presence at the Blenheim site, which she visits almost daily. She has requested a meeting to discuss the replanting.

Hildie was asked to chair the Counsel of Associations, which meets 3 to 4 times per year. The mayor requested the formation of the Counsel of Associations so that various associations within the city can work cooperatively on issues which affect the entire city. Katie and Hildie would attend these meeting and represent any CCHCA concerns that impact the entire city.

Lisa Whetzel, VP Social,

The Labor Day Picnic was well attended by residents. Politicians, city council members, and the fire department were also in attendance. Prizes were raffled off.

The Halloween Kick-Off party is scheduled and pizza will be delivered at 5:30pm. Prizes by age will be awarded for the best costumes.

Santa visits will be made by Marty again this year, information on signing up for a time with Santa will be posted soon.

We will adopt a family again this year for the holidays from Our Daily Bread. Steve Lescure will coordinate donations and deliver gift cards to the family, \$100.00 gift card for Shoppers Food Warehouse and \$150.00 for Target. Donations will be accepted tonight and Steve will also write up a piece asking for donations from residents for the newsletter.

John Sabo, Treasurer,

There is currently \$4387.00 in the account. The Unrestricted balance is \$2315.00. The Restricted balance is \$2072.00, and is slated for community enhancement. Weeding, mulching, and tree removal are future expenditures planned for a portion of the Restricted balance. A transaction report is available for the record.

Committee Reports:

Common Area, Nasrin Lescure,

Nasrin has donated a great deal of time to the maintenance of the Commons, such as weeding, maintaining current plantings, and adding new plants. The City of Fairfax mows the Commons.

Welcoming Committee, Yanji Lama,

As chair of the Welcoming Committee, Yanji provides a gift basket, which contains information on the City of Fairfax, the CCHCA, and our most recent newsletter to all new residents.

Ernie Klimonda, Webmaster,

Our web site is www.cchca.org. The site contains information on all ten homes currently for sale, local businesses, schools, parks, etc.

In addition to the CCHCA website, Ernie also oversees the Yahoo Group. All residents are welcome to join. The Yahoo Group posts interesting and helpful information, such as recommendations for local contractors, and residents post items for sale or that they are giving away.

Ernie questioned whether the CCHCA bylaws should be revised. The bylaws were updated in 2003. In the current bylaws publication of the directory is the duty of the VP Publications, but it is currently handled by the VP Membership. Ernie requested that a separate committee be formed for the Yahoo Group. Committees may be appointed by the president at anytime. The request will be discussed at the next BOD meeting.

Ernie reminded residents to hit 'reply to sender' when responding to e-mails.

Ernie will promote the first CCHCA holiday house decoration contest. Katie and Ernie will serve as judges and the winner will be awarded a certificate.

Steve Lescure, Historian,

Steve is conducting research at the library to find old articles about and pictures of CCH. Steve will scan information and photographs of interest and work with Ernie to post them on the website. Please contact Steve if you have any information or photographs to share.

New Business:

Matt West, a CCH resident and volunteer for CERT, explained and distributed information on the CERT and Fire Corps programs. The City of Fairfax will most likely conduct its own CERT training and will provide all necessary equipment, including steel-toed boots.

The Fire Corps assists the fire department in non-emergency roles, such as fire detector installation, the first aid station at the Fall Festival, etc. The City of Fairfax would like to combine the two programs. There are currently 15 CERT volunteers, 5 of which are from CCH. Many more would be necessary in the case of a real emergency. Contact Matt if you are interested, his information is on the Website, or Shawn Dunstan at the Fire Department, 703.273.8109.

For information on street paving contact the Department of Public Works. Cornwall has reportedly not been paved since 1976.

A concern regarding campaign posters and signs was raised. If anyone has a copy of the regulations for campaign signs please submit them to be posted on the website.

A resident shared that a street light on Farr Drive was cleaned of bugs about six years ago, which improved the lighting significantly. The Department of Public Works and Dominion Power will be contacted to determine who should clean the street lights in the neighborhood.

The next BOD meeting will be on November 14, 2007 at 7:00 at Ernie's house.