

Minutes from the CCHCA Board of Directors Meeting-September 25, 2007

CCHCA Members in Attendance: Katie Baxter-Gagen, John Sabo, Lisa Whetzel, Steve Caruso, Patrick Thomas, Katie Sidwell, Steve Lescure, Ernie Klimonda, Yanji Lama, and Jill McNeil

Minutes from the CCHCA Board of Directors Meeting on June 6, 2007 were approved.

Board of Director Reports:

Katie Baxter-Gagen, President,

- Katie represented the CCHCA at the 9/11/07 City Counsel meeting and expressed our concerns regarding the recent clearing at Blenheim. The three primary issues included; the displaced wildlife from Blenheim that is now present in CCH, a request that the cleared area be rehabilitated with animal friendly plants and trees, and a request that the proposed walking path on the estate be reconsidered.
- Following the presentation the Mayor scheduled a meeting for Friday September 21, 2007 on site with Katie, several City Counsel members, the project manager, several city officials, and the construction team. Several CCH residents also attended.
- The Mayor was supportive and asked that more mature trees be planted to replace those that had been cleared and that the planting be done in the fall as opposed to the spring. However, this will depend upon the completion of the retaining wall and the cost.
- Upon touring the property, another concern was raised, that the clearing off of Cornwall is currently not planned to be replanted, but only seeded for grass. We have requested that the area be replanted with trees and natural materials for a wooded effect as opposed to formal landscaping.
- Katie has responded to concerns from a resident regarding a lack of upkeep of certain properties in the neighborhood. A complaint was received regarding trash cans being left at the curb for several days following trash day.
- In response Katie obtained City of Fairfax ordinances for property upkeep and trash pick up. There are several offices that respond to property issues, Zoning, Public Works, and the Fire Department. Zoning generally responds to issues relating to junk, trash, and yard upkeep. Public Works will respond to trash and lawn issues. The Fire Department will inspect the inside and outside of properties.
- The City of Fairfax responds to initial complaints by going to the property and speaking with the resident. A second complaint will result in a warning of potential fines. The third and all subsequent complaints will result in a \$200 ticket.
- When making a complaint, the caller is required to give their name. The resident requested that the CCHCA either call in or back up complaints reported by

residents. The BOD felt that the role of the CCHCA is to provide information to residents and to offer assistance to residents who have difficulty with the upkeep of their own property. The role of the CCHCA is not a monitor, investigate, or report violations to the City of Fairfax.

- 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.
- A letter written by the concerned resident intended for publication in the CCHCA newsletter was read aloud by Katie. Katie will offer to write an introduction for the letter and complete any necessary editing if the resident is willing to sign her name to the letter.
- The General Meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2007 at 7:00pm in the Daniels Run cafeteria. State Senator Devolites asked to speak at the meeting. However, we have several guest speakers already and will be unable to comply with her request, as we would also want to ask her opponent, Chap Peterson, to speak as well. A suggestion was made that in the future politicians be invited to attend and respond to questions either before or after the meeting.

John Sabo, Treasurer,

- There is currently \$4200.00 in the account. A transaction report is available for the record.
- Nasrin received \$250.00, from the restricted balance to pay for weeding of the Commons Area. However, the contractor did not complete the work and Nasrin is looking for recommendations for someone to hire.

Katie Sidwell, VP Membership,

- Thank you to Chad and Katie for their work on the newsletters, flyers, and membership information/applications. The 2008 directory will be an addendum as opposed to a full directory.
- Membership is at 30 percent this year as opposed to 50 percent at this time last year. Katie is unsure of the reasons for the decrease. We will make a push at the upcoming General Meeting.
- Membership information/applications should be included in all newsletters.
- Katie will hand deliver second notices to homes of previous members who have not yet renewed their membership this year. A suggestion was made to mail renewal invoices.

Ana Alanso, VP Publications,

- The newsletter submission deadline is 11/1/07. The newsletter will be published on 11/17/07.

Lisa Whetzel, VP Social,

- The Labor Day Picnic was well attended and timed. Although less food was ordered more money was spent on entertainment, so the cost was similar to last year. Many duties were delegated to residents via the Yahoo group.
- 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. Dia and Lee will generate signs, dual purpose, for the Halloween Kick-Off Party and General Meeting.
- Santa visits will be made by Marty again this year. We will pay him this year, to help off-set his costs. Presents, with a five dollar limit per child, will be given.
- We will adopt a family again this year for the holidays from Our Daily Bread. Steve Lescure will coordinate and write up a piece asking for donations from residents for the newsletter.
- We will schedule an adult-only "Progressive Dinner," where groups rotate through each others homes for the various courses of a meal, in early March.

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

- Steve will check the condition of the creek to see if a fall clean up is necessary. If so, he will advertise it for the third week of October and contact Scout groups for volunteers.
- 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 Parks and Recreation to see if they will monitor the trash cans and investigate and repair a dangerous spot on the path that seems to require repaving.

Patrick Thomas, VP Community Safety, 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.

Steve Lescure, Historian,

- Steve investigated data bases available on the Fairfax County Public Library web site for information on the CCH neighborhood. Steve will write up interesting pieces for the newsletter and or website.

Ernie Klimonda, Webmaster,

- Ernie contacted Mr. Cummings, a long time resident, who agreed to be interviewed so he could share interesting stories about the neighborhood. We will ask Michelle Rummel to conduct the interview.

- Ernie suggested that the CCHCA send “sympathy” and “get well” cards to residents. Ernie will write up a request for a coordinator for the upcoming newsletter.
- 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.

Welcoming Committee, Yanji Lama,

- Turn over in the neighborhood has been slow and only one new resident has been welcomed since the previous meeting. There are two pending home sales/welcomes.
- Yanji raised concerns regarding safety issues along the creek. There is increased police presence at the footbridge and new no trespassing signs on creek flood zones. Yanji will investigate who owns the flood plane surrounding the creek.

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