

Chesterbrook Woods Citizens Association

Minutes from the Fall Meeting October 2, 2014

Welcome:

Approximately 25 members attended the CWCA spring meeting. CWCA President, Dan Nichols, welcomed everyone and introduced fellow members of the Board: CWCA treasurer, Jennifer Versaw; Vice President, Jim Talens; and Secretary, Elizabeth Ende.

Treasurer's Report:

Jennifer Versaw gave the Treasurer's report. She reported that we met the projected dues paying rate of 75% of families (410 families). Contribution per household is slightly down due to Paypal fee. Neighbors can choose pay a person instead of the "for services" option. Directory ad income is up slightly in 2014, but commitments are down for the fall directory year; however, we have some new sponsors for Oktoberfest. Our primarily spending is for snow removal. With the help of Supervisor Foust's office, we were able to secure first line support for snow removal from VDOT this year which helped reduce the expense for snow removal. We increased cash reserves by over \$6k this year. Reserve appears sufficient to warrant a dues reduction by 50% to \$25 per household. Goal remains to have a two year surplus in the bank.

*A motion was made to approve the FY015 budget (October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015) with **annual dues set at \$25**. The motion carried.*

We encourage all residents to support our neighborhood by paying dues. You can pay in one of two ways:

1. Online Log into Paypal and **choose "SEND TO A PERSON"** and **designate chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com** as the email address. Please include your name & address so we can properly credit your household.
2. Send a check written to "CWCA" for \$25 to CWCA Treasurer, Jennifer Versaw at 6004 Copely Lane. Be sure your check includes your address so we can properly credit your household.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Snow Removal:

Snow Removal Chairs, Ed McGrady and Steve Sunderhauf, reported their job is to manage the snow removal contractor and communicate about snow removal. If you have complaints send them to Ed, not Steve. Ed reminded residents not to move the 'candy cane like' sticks which are in storm drains around the neighborhood. He also asked that, if at all possible, people not park their cars on the street during a snowstorm, in particular if you live in a cul-de-sac since it will prevent us from being able to plow the cul-de-sac. They will use the same snow removal company, JL Tree Service, Inc.

In order to manage our budget, **CWCA will not begin plowing until snow reaches three inches in depth**. The contractor will be asked to put down sand when there is ice on the roads. **Since both Ed and Steve work downtown so aren't on site during the day, if you see a problem, please report it to cwcasnow@gmail.com**. Information on the snow removal process is posted on twitter: www.twitter.com/cwcasnow. This URL works like a website, you don't have to subscribe to twitter to use it. If you have concerns or questions, please send them to cwcasnow@gmail.com.

Ed did remark that sometimes plows are not CWCA's (they are either VDOT or other private plows). You can view VDOT's interactive website to see where the plow is through www.vdotplows.org/

Security Report:

Bob Blakley reported that it has been quiet in the neighborhood, except that a month ago, a new family had electronics stolen out of their garage. He encourages people to be vigilant and report any problems to the police through 703-691-2131.

Report from Supervisor Foust's Office:

Julie Ide and Ben Wiles reported from Supervisor Foust's office. Julie reported that she had left a map with a list of transportation projects being completed in McLean. The county has a chart for how they'll divide up the pedestrian safety projects. The Connect-McLean projects focus on Chesterbrook school as the epicenter moving out to the left and right on Kirby and up Chesterbrook Road. Connect-McLean has asked that the county put increased priority on the stretch of sidewalk near Ivy Hill and Chesterford since that's considered the most treacherous area. Julie reported that a sidewalk project takes an average of three to four years from beginning of design to completion. She said they will have public meetings to talk to homeowners directly affected.

Environmental Committee:

Neil Ende, chair of the Environmental Committee reported that the Environmental Committee has met several times over the summer and developed a Tree Advisory Flyer which along with the Oktoberfest/Directory flyer was recently distributed to neighbors by Block Captains. (flyers are attached).

CWCA will be working toward restoring and expanding tree planting in CWCA in coming months and years to retain our "Chesterbrook Woods" name in meaning in response to some builders who care naught for trees. Neil reported that Lourdes Bufill is preparing a list of nurseries where you can get better pricing than some of the larger, closer in nurseries and you can get native trees. We will circulate that list by email soon. Neil invited neighbors to come visit the environmental committee table at the Oktoberfest party to find out more about what we are doing. There will be a representative from McLean Trees, an organization which encourages local residents to plant trees. The cost is \$50 and for that fee, a McLean Tree Program volunteer will come to your house, recommend a specific tree, help you plant the tree and then return in six months to check on the health of the tree. The website is www.McLeanTreesFoundation.org McLean Trees can work with neighbors this fall, but trees will be planted starting Spring 2015.

We will also have representative from the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) www.nvct.org/ available to talk to neighbors about what you can do to protect trees on your property and what the tax advantages are. NVCT is an award-winning charity that saves nearby nature by helping local governments and private landowners voluntarily preserve natural areas, trails, streams and parks.

We are also running a 'We Love Trees' Campaign and have invited CWCA residents K-12th grade to draw a picture of their favorite tree for use in the 2014 directory or on the CWCA Environmental Affairs webpage.

Please email cwcaenvironment@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the environmental committee.

Pineapple Patrol:

Carol Johnson is the chair of the Pineapple Patrol, CWCA's hospitality committee. Block Captains are to alert the Pineapple Patrol when new neighbors move in so a basket with a directory, menus and coupons from local businesses and a home baked good can be delivered.

McLean Citizens Association Report:

Kate Probst reported that she serves as Recording Secretary for the McLean Citizen's Association www.mcleancitizens.org She explained that MCA provides a forum in which all McLean residents can discuss ways to resolve community problems and countywide issues affecting the area. County supervisors, state legislators, county staff, and other public officials frequently address MCA meetings on matters of interest to McLean residents. The MCA serves as the umbrella organization for homeowner, civic, and community associations in the McLean Planning District. Kate reported on the following events which take place over the next few months.

□ Oct 9, 2014, 7:00 PM: "Meet and Greet 8th and 10th Congressional District Candidates"

MCA has partnered with the League of Women Voters and other local organizations to sponsor a Meet and Greet with candidates for the 8th and 10th Congressional District seats. For further information, [Click here.](#)

□ **Oct 14, 2014, 7:30 PM: "Transportation Update: Roads, Metro, Buses, and Sidewalks in and around McLean"**
A Meeting with Tom Biesiadny, Director, Fairfax Department of Transportation. For further information, [Click here.](#)

□ **Oct 26, 2014, 3:00 PM: "Congressional Debate, 10th District"**
Partnering with Great Falls Citizens Association in the Alden Theater. For further information, [Click here.](#)

□ **Nov 20, 2014, 7:30 PM: "MCA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION"**
For further information, [Click here.](#)

□ **Dec 1, 2014, 7:00 PM: "Conversation with Dr. Karen Garza"**
Dr. Garza is the Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools. For further information, [Click here.](#)

Announcements:

- 1) Elizabeth Ende reported that forms have been distributed by block captains to all neighbors asking for any updates to the directory. If you are new to the neighborhood or know of a new neighbor, please send information to chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com to get added to the email distribution list and to the CWCA directory. We plan to produce and print the directory in November.
- 2) The CWCA Oktoberfest Party will be held on October 19th and will be run by co-chairs, Elizabeth Ruhl and Kelly Overman. It is a party for young and old. There will be bratwurst, hotdogs, and beer and then side dishes, desserts and drinks are brought by neighbors. A signup genius has been sent out by email. Please sign up to help, since this is a party that needs a lot of volunteers.
- 3) Kate Probst reported that Fairfax County needs election officials to help with the upcoming elections. To find out more visit this link: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/eotraining.htm
- 4) Walk to School Day is on October 8th so residents were asked to look out pedestrians and bikers.

Meeting Adjourned 8:15 pm.