

# Chesterbrook Woods Citizens Association

## Minutes from the Spring Meeting

April 23, 2014

### Welcome:

Approximately 45 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. The CWCA Board was elected to serve another year.

### 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). Average amount paid per home is \$49.97 because some people use the Paypal method which incurs a cost for CWCA. We collected \$22,786 this year and are on pace to spend that amount this year with the bulk of funds (\$17,325) having been spent 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 snow removal expenses.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Snow Removal:

Snow Removal Co-Chair, Steve Sunderhauf, reported there were eight snow events this year. He thought that our contractor, JL Tree, was very responsive and less costly than our prior contractor. Steve noted that there were a few complaints about driveways being plowed in. One resident asked what can be done if driveway is plowed in. Steve advised neighbors should alert and Ed McGrady. Places where this happens can be marked on a map so contractor is aware of issues. Also, shovel snow to the right side of your driveway because plow comes from the left.

### Pineapple Patrol:

Dan introduced Carol Johnson, who is chair of the Pineapple Patrol, our Hospitality Committee. The committee's name is the Pineapple Patrol because pineapples are thought to be welcoming. The committee meets three times a year. Dan thanked Carol and her committee of 12 for their work. Carol demonstrated what a welcome basket looks like. She reported that the committee has done a great job getting local merchants to donate coupons or other discounts for the baskets. She is very pleased because it's a great service for our new neighbors and good business for these merchants. When a block captain alerts the pineapple patrol that new neighbors have moved in, someone on the committee delivers the basket. The basket includes take out menus, discount coupons or gift certificates from local businesses, a tape measure from McLean Hardware and a home baked item supplied by a member of the Pineapple Patrol. They have delivered 25 baskets this year and have enjoyed meeting new neighbors.

### Environmental Committee:

Dan advised that CWCA is concerned about preserving the beauty and the woods portion of our neighborhood. Certain anxious contractors tear down more trees than they need to. CWCA would like to preserve trees as much as possible. Dan introduced Neil Ende, chair of the Environmental Committee. Neil explained that at the fall 2013 meeting, he circulated a contractor pledge for community review which describes soil and tree friendly building practices we would like for them to use. The environmental committee would send the contractor pledge to builders and then would publicize a list of those builders who agree to sign the contractor pledge and follow the 'soil/tree-friendly' guidelines in their building processes. Neil explained that the idea is to have a positive list of builders rather than keep a negative list. To develop the pledge, Neil worked with a 'green building expert', Doug Horgan who is Vice President of Best Practices at [BOWA](#). Dan made a motion (which was approved) for CWCA to adopt the pledge. (See attachment to view pledge). As a next step, Neil has asked that CWCA residents either forward the pledge to builders to sign and report back to him or to send him contact information so that he might approach the builders to sign the pledge.

Please email [chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com](mailto:chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the environmental committee. Neil would love to have more members join! A resident asked if we could create signage to note that a builder is a partner and has signed the pledge.

There was a question about what happens when a developer is building a spec house, is there anything we can do? Neil advised that neighbors should let him know about these situations and he could work to contact the developer. There was also discussion that contractor pledge could be modified so that a resident who is selling a house could incorporate the language into their sales contract.

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 advised as a near term step that he will reach out to one or more local nurseries to secure a neighborhood discount for purchasing trees. This may require a certain number of trees to be purchased in order to obtain a discount.

### **Report from Supervisor Foust's Office:**

Supervisor Foust reported that for the first time since 1986 new money has been allocated in Northern Virginia for transportation through House Bill 2313. He is very happy that he can deliver the good news that Connect-McLean was able to secure funding for a great set of projects. The money will be allocated over the next six years. The funding will pay for trails or sidewalks along Kirby Road from Powhatan up to Chesterbrook Road and continuing to Mori and from Kirby connecting to the sidewalk at 41<sup>st</sup> Street which ultimately connects to Glebe Road. Dan Nichols reported that this was a multi-year, multi-neighborhood effort. CWCA worked with Franklin Park, El Nido and Potomac Hills neighborhoods on these projects. Supervisor Foust reported that there isn't a schedule yet for the money, but a general goal is that no one district will get all their projects done at one time. Dranesville District was able to secure funds for 50 projects. Supervisor Foust commended Julie Ide for the work she is doing to track all these projects. He also reported that there is money in the 2014 bond to implement sidewalks across from Chesterbrook ES.

Supervisor Foust reported on the RSU project that is being considered in Fairfax County. These are small units (500 sq feet) with 75 units per building. He reported that a number of concerns were raised in the community meetings. If you have concerns or questions about RSUs you should try to attend the May 7<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisor's meeting at the Government Center.

### **Connect-McLean:**

Dan introduced Michele Pearce, chair of [Connect-McLean](#). Michele said she's a mom who has lived on Kirby Road since 2004. She started Connect-McLean in 2010 when her son was almost hit by a car. The incident persuaded her that it was time for the community to take back their roads. In the time she's lived here, there has been an exponential increase in traffic (almost 10,000 cars drive on Kirby every day at an average speed of 46 mph or 11 mph over the speed limit). Cars are racing down the road during school pickup time. She is very concerned about pedestrian safety. Connect-McLean isn't just for McLean residents; many of our North Arlington neighbors off of Chesterbrook Road and Falls Church neighbors off of Kirby also care about safe pedestrian and bicycle passage along both of these roads. Connect-McLean is made up of more than 2,500 neighbors and 9 community partners who have joined the cause. Connect-McLean is working towards getting sidewalks/trails built on Kirby Road and Chesterbrook Road.

Elizabeth Ende introduced neighborhood resident, Josh Leong, who is an eighth grader, who made a video for Connect - McLean. Josh showed the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CLdDsRUuEI>

### **Security Report:**

Office Lucas from the McLean Police Department talked about what's going on in McLean. The police are completing Phase II of their building. With the introduction of metro to McLean, we will likely see new issues and that Tysons is turning into a city! The police department will get additional staffing. The police participate in a program called Certified Crime Prevention which is certified through the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice. He said that the McLean Community Center will have a CERT training program included in their August catalog. They would love to get more people involved in this training. Also, community members are invited to participate in a 'ride along' with the police (you can do this once a year).

He said that if you see someone or something that doesn't feel right call, you should call the police and ask for the Crime Prevention Unit. 'Deter, Detect, Delay, Deny' is their motto. He asked that residents lock their cars because this forces

criminals to break the glass to break into a car and this is an action they don't want to do. He reported that airbag thefts are occurring in the county now. Also, we're entering solicitor season so may see magazine sales crews. You shouldn't listen to their 'sob stories' about trying to make money to fund a trip. He also advised that door-to-door salespeople are required to have an ID issued by Fairfax County (except high school groups and girl scouts).

**Announcements:**

- 1) Elizabeth Ende reported that she is in charge of the directory. If you are new to the neighborhood or know of a new neighbor, please have them send information to [eende1@gmail.com](mailto:eende1@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 at the end of October. Dan introduced new co-chairs, Elizabeth Ruhl and Kelly Overman.
- 3) Dan introduced Kate Probst who will serve as secretary for the McLean Citizen's Association. Kate advised the group meets the first Wednesday of the month at the McLean Community Center. She will keep CWCA advised of what's going on at the MCA and welcomes CWCA residents to let her know if there are any issues they want her to follow.
- 4) Carol Johnson reported there is a large branch hanging over Forest Lane (near Albemarle) which is dangerous. She had called VDOT, but since the branch was touching a phone line not an electric line, VDOT deferred to Verizon to remove it. Verizon sent a crew, but they weren't equipped to remove the branch. At the meeting, Supervisor Foust's office offered to intervene on this matter. **UPDATE:** *Thanks to Supervisor Foust's office, the branch has been removed!*

Meeting Adjourned 8:50 pm.