

Chesterbrook Woods Citizens Association
Spring Neighborhood Meeting
April 14, 2016

CWCA Vice President Larry Allen called the meeting to Order at 7:10 PM. Approximately 27 residents were in attendance.

Treasurer's Report:

The CWCA Treasurer was unable to attend. The report was presented by Vice President Allen. 384 households have paid this year's dues, which is a participation rate of 71% of all households. The average contribution is \$43 per household. The cost for snow removal this winter was less than was budgeted. The association anticipates minor additional expenses for the Pineapple Patrol as new families move in over the spring and summer. The funds on reserve are the same as last year, the equivalent of one year's worth of expenses. The Vice President will recommend that the association buy new meeting announcement signs since the current ones are no longer usable.

Snow:

Vice President Allen and CWCA Snow Removal Committee representative Steve Sunderhauf both reported. Snow removal costs for the three snow events this winter were \$14,800. There was one snow removal issue in the area near Mosswood Court and Grady Randall. Several residents left their cars parked in a cul de sac and the snow removal equipment could not plow safely. The CWCA board sent a letter to the households in that area reminding them that moving cars out of the way of the snow plows is a life safety issue. If a resident should have a medical emergency or a fire, the rescue equipment could not reach a house on an unplowed street.

A resident offered kudos to the snow contractor, J. L. Tree, for its excellent work this winter.

Security:

Vice President Allen also presented the security report. Shortly before the date of meeting there was an attempted break in near the corner of Williamsburg and Old Dominion. The Vice President reminded everyone to keep their front doors locked and their garage doors lowered.

A resident at the meeting contributed that there had been a break-in reported near Jamestown school

Pineapple Patrol:

CWCA Pineapple Patrol Chair Carol Johnson showed a sample basket to the residents at the meeting. The basket includes gift cards from local businesses and home baked goods. She invited anyone interested to become a patrol member. It is an excellent way to meet new neighbors. The patrol has delivered 50 baskets in the last

three years.

A resident suggested that the Pineapple Patrol coordinate with the relevant Block Captain to make a joint visit.

Environmental Committee:

Environmental Committee Chair, Neil Ende, and Committee member Betty Ende both spoke. Unfortunately, despite our representatives having a detailed list of proposed improvements to state legislation concerning trees, only one new law was passed in the most recent general assembly. This law allows counties to create regulations that allow the county to post a sign on a sold property notifying neighbors that the house will be torn down and redeveloped as an infill project. The sign will include a telephone number at which neighbors can contact the county so that the neighbors can be aware of the developers' plans from the earliest stages.

Mr. Ende believes that it may be necessary to sue the county to get the county employees to enforce the existing regulations. In his experience, they appear to believe that they have no ability to challenge or change a developer's plans. To be most effective the lawsuit will need several residents to volunteer to be plaintiffs. There will be no cost to those who are plaintiffs.

While the Fairfax County tree preservation ordinance requires the preservation of higher percentage of tree canopy than any other in Virginia, developers are adept at making site plans that take advantage of the numerous loopholes. Thus, they cut down many trees that in theory should be preserved.

A resident reported a disturbing issue. Someone has been using her name to complain about the development next door to her. The county has sent inspectors several time in response to the complaints, but none of them were made by the person whose name and address were used.

Supervisor Faust's Office:

Jane Edmonson of Supervisor Faust's office presented a snapshot of the current status of a several issues. On April 14 the county was in the middle of the budget process. Subsequently on April 28, the final mark up of the budget was approved. It includes no increase in tax rates and an increased contribution in support of Fairfax County Schools.

The county is also discussing tax diversification. It is considering a meals tax. Fairfax County is the only jurisdiction in the metro area that does not have a restaurant meals tax. However, there is opposition to this tax by the hospitality industry.

The Chesterbrook Road sidewalk project is proceeding. The scheduling of some parts of the project has been accelerated due to the Dominion Strategic Undergrounding Project. This project is a state wide effort to underground utilities in key areas. This project applies only to main utility backbones. Homeowners may choose to underground the utilities on their own property (from the connection at the nearest pole to their house across their own property) at their own expense. Homeowners can do so

now or whenever they choose to.

Chesterbrook Woods assessments generally stayed the same or went up slightly. However this varies by street. One street saw its assessments go up 5% to 10%

The McLean Community Center renovation project planning is on schedule. Currently the plan is being finalized and schedules drawn up for closing parts of the building while they are under renovation.

This year for the first time in several years VDOT has a budget that will allow repaving of some secondary roads. VDOT's prioritized plan for repaving has been released. The top priority is Great Falls Street.

Fairfax County provides shredding services for the public at various sites on specific dates. Interested residents can consult the schedule at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/shredding.htm>. The closest location for Chesterbrook Woods residents takes place on August 20, 2016 at Spring Hill Elementary School, 8201 Lewinsville Rd., McLean 22102

Change to the By-laws:

President Dan Nichols pointed out that the current language in the by-laws concerning the timing of presenting the budget to the association is awkward. It is left over from before the decision to have the fiscal year start on October 1. A motion was made to change the wording about the date of the presentation of the budget to “the fall meeting.” The motion was seconded and approved.

Election of Officers:

The nominating committee reported that all officers have agreed to continue except for Alexis Fooshe, Secretary, who is unable to. All current officers were unanimously re-elected. The committee proposed the election of Winkle Nemeth to replace Ms Fooshe. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.

The Vice President adjourned the meeting at 8:40 P. M.