

Chesterbrook Woods Citizens Association

Minutes from the Spring Meeting

April 21, 2015

Welcome:

Approximately 40 members attended the CWCA spring meeting. CWCA President, Dan Nichols, called the meeting to order.

Treasurer's Report:

Jennifer Versaw gave the mid-year Treasurer's report. Fiscal year started October 1, 2014 and runs until September 30, 2015. Jennifer reported that we have exceeded our projected dues paying rate of 76% versus 75% of families and some residents pay more than \$25. We are encouraging all residents to support our neighborhood by paying dues! Goal remains to have a two year surplus in the bank.

Dues can be paid 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.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Dan thanked Cabell Fooshe, Elizabeth Grau and Elaine Clancy who served as the Nominating Committee. Cabell Fooshe presented the following slate:

Dan Nichols, President
Jennifer Versaw, Treasurer
Larry Allen, Vice President
Alexis Fooshe, Secretary

A motion was made and carried to elect the officers.

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 advised that as an experiment this year, he did not put out the 'candy cane like' sticks which mark storm drains during the winter. There were no complaints that storm drains overflowed so he feels we do not need to put out the sticks any more. We had a moderate amount of snow this year, but it was not too expensive. Steve reported we are happy with the new contractor. It was a little more expensive per plow than last year. For seven snow/ice events, we spent about \$14,000. After the first occurrence, Ed and Steve discovered there were a few streets which were not plowed so they started sending out two plows. They got a few complaints about driveways getting plowed in. Someone asked if there is a way we can get the word out to neighbors about getting their cars off the street so that all of the street can be plowed. It is especially complicated in a cul-de-sac. CWCA prefers to use sand rather than chemicals (salt not allowed), but if you use too much sand, it builds up on the street. Steve also noted that CWCA does not start plowing at the beginning of a storm because additional plowing will be required which will cost more money. He believes it is clear it's worth CWCA plowing, because VDOT is not getting to all the streets in our neighborhood.

Security Report:

Bob Blakley said he was very happy to report there is little to report. The last issue raised to him was at the holidays when there were some reports of packages being stolen from doorsteps. He encourages people to be vigilant and report any problems to the police through 703-691-2131. Warmer weather brings out boldness and potential crime so please be vigilant.

Pineapple Patrol:

Carol Johnson, Chair of CWCA's Hospitality Committee, the Pineapple Patrol, reported she works on the most fun committee since they get to welcome new neighbors. Carol gets information from block captains when new neighbors move in and then sends out a note to her committee to see who can help get a basket to the new family. Carol demonstrated an example of the welcome baskets that have been produced by the Pineapple Patrol. The basket includes take out menus, discount coupons and gift certificates from local businesses, a tape measure from McLean Hardware and a home baked item supplied by a member of the Pineapple Patrol. Local businesses have been very generous with their donations for the baskets so Carol encourages residents to support them:

In McLean:

McLean Hardware
Washingtonian Interiors
McLean Sport and Racquet Club
Color Wheel
Bach 2 Rock
McLean Pharmacy
Chain Bridge Cellars
Dog's Best Friend
PR and Partners
Goeller's
Pucinella's Restaurant
Starnut Cafe
Oak Lane Soaps (Melinda Miller, Neighbor)

In Arlington:

Cassatt's Kiwi Café
Heidelberg Pastry Shoppe

In Falls Church:

Merrifield Garden Center

If you're interested in joining the Pineapple Patrol, please email Carol at cobrin@aol.com

Environmental Committee:

Neil Ende, chair of the Environmental Committee reported his concerns that without better legislation, we are not able to get builders to use more tree friendly building practices. The rules are lax and the county doesn't seem to be doing much to enforce them. The environmental committee thinks education is one avenue so we will continue to reach out to neighbors to let them know about selling to responsible parties and the fact that you can put restrictions on what can be done when you sell your property. Dan reiterated that we are not opposed to development, but are pushing for responsible development. Unfortunately, there are many developers who do not share that view.

There was a suggestion that we include a page in the directory for information about options for selling your house.

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

Report from Supervisor Foust's Office:

Supervisor Foust advised that the Supervisors marked up the budget. The economy in Mclean and Fairfax County have not been doing as well because the federal government and contractors are not expanding so the commercial tax base is flat. The County Executive has proposed cutting some important programs. For the school budget in the coming year, Supervisor Foust would have liked to have done more. He said they got within \$4 million of FCPS's request (our of a \$2 billion dollar FCPS budget) which is \$66 million more than last year. Supervisor Foust advised next year they will evaluate everything the county supports, provide metrics and asking the community to evaluate priorities. He also said that the opening of the silver line has been good environmentally (reducing car traffic) and helpful for economic development. There is a parking lot at the McLean Station (near Capital One). When the six year transportation plan was presented, our community showed great support for Connect McLean projects which resulted in a pretty good plan for our area. He advised that real estate values increase with sidewalks.

Supervisor Foust reported that the McLean Revitalization Project continues. They have completed putting utilities underground on Old Dominion and Chain Bridge Road which has resulted in better aesthetics and reliability. There will be a high rise apartment complex (condos) built at Fleetwood and Elm Street. There will have a half acre park and a restaurant. Spring Hill Rec Center has just opened a fantastic new facility. Work continues on the Government Center at Balls Hill. Police have remained in place during the construction which has resulted in a slower than planned schedule, but they expect to finish the project by the end of August.

He reported that for everyone in our community, trees coming down are a concern. He also reported county staff has proposed increasing the permitted noise level for activities on school/recreational grounds and mixed-used communities. Come learn about the proposal at a MCA meeting at the McLean Community Center on April 29th at 7:30.

Announcements:

1) CWCA Neighbor and MCA Secretary, Kate Probst, asked us to report the following list of MCA meetings/projects:

- MCA Noise Ordinance Meeting on April 29th
- MCA will testify on the county's fiscal year 2016 advertised budget
- MCA is on top of the noise concerns related to metro and increased noise from aircraft flying over our area
- MCA urged FCPS to address large class sizes

2) Oktoberfest Report Co-Chair Kelly Overman sent the following report: Thanks to lots of wonderful volunteers and the hospitality of our great Laburnum cul-de-sac neighbors, we had a fun Oktoberfest party on October 19. The weather was perfect, lots of families brought delicious potluck treats and neighbors were decked out in fantastic costumes. As in prior years, we had grills going with brats& hotdogs, two great moon bounces, the donut tree, a band playing some great tunes and a magician to entertain the kids. For the first time, we added professional face painting and balloon artists to the party line-up, which were sponsored by great corporate neighbors Lizzy Conroy of [HBC Realty Group](#) and JD Callander of [Weichert Realtors](#). We expect to schedule the 2015 party on Sunday, October 18, with a rain date of Sunday, October 25. Sadly, my co-chair, Elizabeth Ruhl, is moving to Denver so I am looking for another co-chair. Please send any suggestions you have on how to make the Oktoberfest party great to kellyoverman@hotmail.com.

3) We reminded neighbors we list Young Entrepreneurs in the CWCA Directory. These kids can help with a variety of tasks (yard work, dog walking, babysitting, window cleaning, snow removal, etc.). So check them out if you need help!

4) A note to dog owners, please keep them on leash AND pick up their poop!

5) There were complaints about increased aircraft noise. National Airport apparently increased landings between 11 pm and midnight. If you are concerned about this issue, consider joining the [MCA Transportation Committee](#).

Update from Connect-McLean:

Betty Yu brought information about sidewalk projects. FCDOT has begun survey work and preliminary design work on sidewalks for the south side of Chesterbrook Road between Chesterford Way and Chesterbrook Vale Court and on the El Nido side of Kirby Road between Birch Avenue and Corliss Court. And, FCDOT anticipates that it will construct the sidewalk on Kirby across from Chesterbrook School between the Chesterbrook swim club and Old Chesterbrook Road in the next year or so. If you are interested in learning more, please email Betty Yu at GABY1916@cox.net.

CWCA Teen Film:

We were pleased to have McLean High School Student, CWCA Resident and filmmaker, Josh Leong, show us a short entertaining film he created called 'My Pit's the Pit'. The film is a look at the unique, passionate and under-appreciated front ensemble percussion section – the Pit. Josh's film was one of five films selected to be shown at the Bethesda Film Festival earlier this year! Click here to view the film: <https://vimeo.com/120747178>

Meeting Adjourned 9 pm.