

Chesterbrook Woods Citizens Association
Fall Neighborhood Meeting
October 15, 2015

The CWCA meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Larry Allen, Vice-President, CWCA. Approximately 20 residents were in attendance.

Secretary:

CWCA Secretary Alexis Fooshé reported on the status of the CWCA Directory. Directories are on target to be delivered at the end of November/early December. Block Captains will be delivering the directories. Ms. Fooshé urged all residents to keep their data current by updating their data themselves in AtoZ database, or by sending their changes directly to Alexis at chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com.

Treasurer:

CWCA Treasurer Jennifer Versaw reported on the CWCA budget. Though funding is adequate, we did use more funds than expected on snow removal last winter. The Treasurer explained that our nominal dues fund important initiatives such as private snow removal (and winter will soon be upon us!); the annual neighborhood block party/Oktoberfest; welcome baskets for new neighbors; and minor expenses relating to the Directory and semi-annual neighborhood meetings. The Board suggested dues should be \$40 per household this year. The motion was seconded and passed without dissent. We are urging all residents to pay dues by December 1st.

Security:

CWCA Security Director Bob Blakley reported he was grateful there was nothing significant to report. One resident reminded people to watch their front porches if they were expecting packages, because packages have been stolen off of front porches last year, and it is now coming up on holiday season.

Pineapple Patrol:

CWCA Pineapple Patrol Nancy Stansbury reported on behalf of Carol Johnson. Nancy showed the beautiful and bountiful welcome basket that is presented to new neighbors on behalf of the neighborhood. The welcome baskets are paid for with our dues. Welcome baskets contain the CWCA Directory, coupons, and all types of goodies, including freshly baked goodies baked by the Pineapple Committee members.

Environmental Committee:

CWCA Environmental Committee, Neil Ende reported on Environmental Committee efforts. The Committee has spent hundreds of hours on the "Save our Trees" issue. Mr. Ende reported the Environmental Committee met last year and decided on two trajectories – short-term and long-term. In the short term, the Committee will focus on education and enforcement. Mr. Ende reported very few homes in our neighborhood are now being sold to families--that most homes are

now being sold to developers. He clarified that big houses aren't our complaint, it's the tree issue, and remarked that if builders could get more creative in how to save trees, our environmentally-minded neighborhood wouldn't be so opposed to new development. We also want to encourage native tree planting. Needless deforestation impacts not only the "look" of the neighborhood but also impacts neighbors directly: deforestation creates grading changes, runoff changes, shade anomalies, etc.

Last year the Environmental Committee created and disseminated an educational flyer that highlighted options for homeowners who are considering selling their house. Mr. Ende stressed the Environmental Committee is not trying to tell property owners what to do, that the Committee just want to be sure property owners know their options.

Mr. Ende reported it is difficult to change current law so right now the Committee is focusing efforts on communicating our Neighborhood's desire for Fairfax County to enforce the existing tree ordinance. The current Fairfax County tree ordinance is a small carveout that is generally unenforced. The Committee is working with Planning and Zoning and Urban Forestry to make sure the minimal requirements of a tree canopy are enforced. In the long term, the Committee is trying to work on a legislative solution. They are partnering with McLean Citizens Association, Franklin Park, and El Nido neighborhood associations, who also have similar concerns about the destruction of trees due to infill development.

To date, the Committee's work has resulted in saving a handful of trees on Forest and Woodley. The Committee met on October 29th with the County Executive to personally view examples within Chesterbrook Woods. Another option the Committee is considering is to sue Fairfax County for failure to enforce the tree ordinance laws. One resident suggested we set up a petition to determine if there is interest in pursuing the tree canopy issue further. The petition has since been circulated and can be found here: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/petition-to-save-mclean-tree-canopy>)

Snow Removal:

The Snow Removal Committee reported we have a good crew and experienced team lined up to clear our streets this winter.

Oktoberfest:

Oktoberfest Party Chairpersons Lara Bakewell and Kelly Overman were not able to attend but communicated the party was fully planned and would be held on October 18 from 1-4 p.m. Next year we need to find another cul-de-sac for the Oktoberfest --so if you and your neighbors live on a cul-de-sac and would like to host the 'Hood for a few hours next year, please let us know. We are also looking for an Oktoberfest chair person to assist Lara Bakewell with planning next year's Oktoberfest. Please email suggestions for cul-de-sacs or Oktoberfest chairperson to chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com.

Supervisor Foust's Office:

Jane Edmonston from Supervisor Foust's office reported on the status of the Chesterbrook Road sidewalk project. The sidewalk work is scheduled to take place from 2016-2020. It is a long process because it involves getting approvals from VDOT and FCDOT; and entails drawing up and approving construction plans, anticipating drainage, utility, tree issues, and easements. They have started working on the project but this is a multi-year project.

Announcements:

Mrs. Betty Ende reminded us that we all need to "Slow Down to Get Around" trash trucks. Betty also reported on Labor Day Lemonade Stands. The Labor Day stands were the idea of the Environmental Committee. In case you weren't in town on Labor Day, Betty compiled a brief video about the lemonade stands -- you can view it here:

<https://animoto.com/play/NLdbv1owJeOfXm1ZzTE15Q>

Betty also let us know about the Little Free Library in the neighborhood, and the neighborhood Bunco group sponsored by Jean Wang.

Jennifer Versaw remarked that she has noticed an increase in number of people speeding in the mornings; she reminded everyone to please slow down because lots of kids are at bus stops between 7 and 8:15 am. The meeting attendees agreed and suggested maybe we should ask the police to monitor speed in the morning on our streets. There was also a suggestion to add digital "you are going this fast" signs, as speeding is a serious concern of residents. One individual remarked that bushes at corner of Laburnum and Woodacre need to be trimmed; all residents on corners are reminded to please trim your bushes as this will increase visibility for both drivers and pedestrians.

Residents also suggested a new initiative, Elderly Angels. CWCA could compile and maintain a list of elderly neighbors who may need help getting to and from errands, or help with accomplishing tasks in their houses. We could then match up those who need help, with those in the neighborhood who are willing to assist the elderly.

It was remarked regarding our neighborhood Roads – that some are in terrible condition. VDOT maintains our roads so CWCA Board will contact VDOT and ask them to come to next meeting.

The Vice-President adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.