

Chesterbrook Woods Citizens Association

Minutes from the Fall Meeting September 26, 2013

Welcome:

Approximately 40 members attended the CWCA fall meeting. CWCA President, Dan Nichols, welcomed everyone. Dan introduced CWCA treasurer, Jennifer Versaw; Vice President, Jim Talens; Secretary, Elizabeth Ende; Security Manager, Bob Blakley; and Snow Removal Committee Chairs: Steve Sunderhauf and Ed McGrady.

There was a moment of silence in memory of the people killed at the Navy Yard.

Treasurer's Report:

Jennifer Versaw gave the Treasurer's report. She reported that the fiscal year has been modified so it ran for an extra six months this year (April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013). From now on, the fiscal year will start on October 1st and run through September 30th. We have collected \$22,636 this past year and have \$42,555 in reserves. Major expenditures this past year were: \$1,020 for the directory, \$1,650 Oktoberfest party, \$3,600 for plowing and \$408 for dues, supplies and meetings. Jennifer reported we will add a budget line of \$600 for Pineapple Patrol (welcoming committee) and have increased the budget for the Oktoberfest to \$2,500 since some of the expenses last year were paid for privately. The budget assumes a dues rate of \$50 and that 75% households will pay their dues.

There was a question on why with such a large reserve we need to collect dues. Jennifer advised that the Board recommends keeping a reserve fund in case winter weather is worse than expected and we need additional funds for plowing. Steve Sunderhauf reported that during the massive snowstorms a few years ago, CWCA spent more than \$35,000 negotiated down from \$45,000. It required a massive fundraising effort to pay off the debt. Based on how things go this winter, the Board will determine the appropriate level for dues for FY2015. There was also a question on whether people paid dues in March and are now being asked to pay again in October. The answer is we did not begin collecting dues in after the spring meeting since we extended the fiscal year so people are not paying twice in one year. *(Except for one family who paid last year's and this year's dues together, the payments which have come in after December 31st were owed last fiscal year.)*

- **A motion was made to approve the FY2014 budget with annual dues set at \$50. 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", services and designate chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com as the email address. Include your name & address so we can properly credit your household.
2. **Send a check** written to "CWCA" for \$50 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., with the same price points as last year. 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 salt and 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. They weren't aware of icing issues which caused problems for a bus last year, but once they were advised, they asked the contractor to put down sand/salt to help prevent further issues. Information on the snow removal process is posted on twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/cwcasnow>. This URL works like a website, you don't have to subscribe to twitter to use it.

There was a request that the snowplow not pile snow in front of driveways. Steve said they do try to avoid this, but it's sometimes hard to avoid covering storm drains, particularly when you are plowing in the dark. There was also a request that the driver be asked to slow down when they are plowing in the neighborhood. If you have concerns or questions, please send them to cwcasnow@gmail.com.

Security Report:

Bob Blakley reported that last time he spoke it had been quiet in the neighborhood and then a few days later there were a rash of burglaries in the area. The perpetrators were from PG County and have been apprehended. There are also reports on neighborhood listserv about an older man with a beard approaching children in the park in McLean (although there are no reports of him being sighted in CWCA). Bob also reported he just saw a message about someone using a bb gun to shoot out car windows on Linway Terrace. It is thought that this is probably the work of teenagers. This vandalism was not in our neighborhood, but reinforces the idea that neighbors should be vigilant and should call the police if they see suspicious behavior.

There was a question about what can be done about people running stop signs and driving too fast in areas where there are children (a few problems were noted: Laburnum Street and Woodacre and Woodacre and Crestwood.) There were also complaints about cars parking on the curvy part of Forest Lane and Woodley. Could we get a no parking sign for those areas? Bob will send a note about this issue to Supervisor Foust's office.

Pineapple Patrol:

Dan reported that the Hospitality Committee has been reinstated and Carol Johnson is the chair. The committee's name is the Pineapple Patrol because pineapples are thought to be welcoming. Since Carol is out of town, committee member, Nancy Stansberry, demonstrated an example of the welcome baskets they have created. 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 began delivering baskets in September. They rely on block captains to alert them when new neighbors move in.

Report from Supervisor Foust's Office:

Staff aide, Julie Ide, delivered a report for Supervisor Foust who was attending another meeting. She reported that for the first time since 1986 new money has been allocated in Northern Virginia for transportation through House Bill 2313. Fairfax Board Chair, Sharon Bulova, sits on the Transportation Board. Fairfax County will get \$125 million annually for transportation. Some of that money will be used to reduce the amount of money collected through tolls which are very high. [NVT](#) and [VDOT](#) are working together on a six year transportation plan. For more information, please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/>

Julie reported that there were no plans for commuter parking for the Tysons subway stops so Supervisor Foust has asked staff to study ways to find commuter lots. As a result, a private surface lot is being considered and would supply 711 parking spots. They will be required to be open from 5 am – 8 pm M-F, but may also have evening and weekend hours. The Tysons metro stop is expected to open in March 2014.

The Library Board had proposed some changes which would allow the library to operate with a reduced number of employees, including hiring staff that do not have a library science background. The plan was to Beta Test at the Reston Library but there have been complaints so the test has been delayed. Supervisor Foust's office also got a lot of complaints about the library's discard policy which has been amended. [***Click here to view the list of meetings which will be held over the next few weeks to discuss the future of Fairfax County Libraries.***](#)

Renovation of the Spring Hill Recreation Center has begun. The Park Authority will build a 22,000 square foot gym with a climbing wall. There will also be a 15,000 square foot fitness center.

Julie advised that pedestrian safety and connectivity is a major focus for Supervisor Foust. He appreciates the efforts of Connect-McLean in making McLean a safer place.

Connect-McLean:

Dan introduced Michele Pearce, chair of a grassroots organization called, [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.

Dan Nichols reported that he and Nadir Mohammed have spoken to every neighbor on Chesterbrook from Kirby to 41st Street. They've asked them to sign a 'willingness to consider and easement for a safer way for foot and bicycle traffic'. They have gotten a tremendously positive response. Michele and her team have done the same on Kirby Road from Powhatan up to Chesterbrook Road.

Connect-McLean has submitted a priority list which has been approved by Supervisor Foust, but funding needs to be granted so it is imperative that people go to meetings and let elected staff know that we want funding for these sidewalks to make our roads safer for pedestrians and bikers. As we learn about meeting schedules, CWCA will circulate details to residents.

In the meantime, here are **4 things you can do to make a difference!**

1. Sign the petition: http://connect-mclean.com/How_to_Help.html
2. Like Connect-Mclean on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ConnectMcLean>
3. Email elected officials to let them know that pedestrian safety on Chesterbrook and Kirby Roads is important to you!
4. Join [Connect-McLean](#).

Dan advised that neighborhood resident and eighth grader, Josh Leong, has made a video for Connect-McLean which has been posted on you tube. Josh hopes to attend CWCA's spring meeting and will show his video. In the meantime, if you want to view it, please visit: https://www.youtube.com/edit?ns=1&o=U&video_id=14r4ZyjP06A

There was a question about getting a three-way stop sign added on Kirby Road at Linway Terrace (like there is at Chesterbrook Road). Dan advised that he wrote to VDOT asking for help. So far, no solutions have been provided by VDOT. He advised, they will not put in a stop sign there because it's so close to the stop sign at Chesterbrook Road and would potentially lead drivers to roll through the second stop sign.

There was a question about why Longfellow has a crossing guard but Chesterbrook ES does not. Chesterbrook was designated a no-walker school about 10 years ago because of traffic safety on Kirby and as a result does not qualify for a crossing guard.

Announcements:

- 1) The budget has been passed, so residents are encouraged to pay the FY2014 CWCA dues of \$50. Dues pay for privately-contracted snow removal, a printed neighborhood directory, the annual Oktoberfest Block Party, the Pineapple Patrol (Hospitality Committee) and expenses to support our CWCA membership meetings. You can pay in one of two ways:

A. **Online** Log into Paypal and choose "Send", services and designate <mailto:chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com> as the email address. Include your name & address so we can properly credit your household.

B. Send a check written to "CWCA" for \$50 to CWCA Treasurer, Jennifer Versaw at 6004 Copely Lane.

Be sure your check includes your address so we can properly credit your household.

- 2) Elizabeth Ende is updating the directory. Please send updates to her at eende1@gmail.com by October 30th. We plan to publish and distribute the directory in November.
- 3) The CWCA Oktoberfest Party will be held on Sunday, October 27th from 1-4 pm in the Laburnum Street cul-de-sac. Rain date is Sunday, November 10th (same time, same place). Here are the party details:
 - Back by popular demand.... live music, moonbounces, face painting, games and Halloween costume contests!
 - Washington-area favorite, Louis the Magician, will perform a MAGIC SHOW at 3pm!
 - And of course, plenty of bratwurst, hot dogs, beer and fun!

Please bring the following to share:

- Last name ending with A-E -- non alcoholic drinks (water bottles, juice boxes or cans of soda)
 - Last name ending with F-P -- a side dish with serving utensil
 - Last name ending with Q-Z -- dessert
- 4) CWCA VP, Jim Talens, has a house on the 23rd Annual Metro Washington, D.C. Tour of Solar and Green Homes on Saturday, October 5th from 11 am-5 pm. Jim's house is at 6017 Woodley. He will share information on his solar panels.
 - 5) There was a request that we circulate contact information for Bob Blakely from [Northern Woods Tree Services](#) who spoke at the Spring 2013 meeting. He can be reached at 703-528-2056 or rblakelyNWTS@hotmail.com.

Dolley Madison Library Update:

CWCA Resident and Dolley Madison Library Branch Manager, Chris LaMarca, came to talk to us about what's going on at the library. Chris explained about a program called the 'floating collection' which means that books that are returned to Dolley Madison stay there for Dolley Madison patrons to check out. This means if you are reading a great book, you should be sure to return it to Dolley Madison so it will be more easily available to Dolley Madison patrons. Chris also advised that their e-book collection is growing. If you need help with checking out e-books, library staff can assist you.

Chris talked a little bit about the budget constraints within the library. They haven't been filling empty spots and the children's librarian is retiring at the end of December with no plans to replace her. Over the next month, there will be a series of public meetings on the future of our libraries. [Click here](#) to view the list of meetings which will be held over the next few weeks to discuss the future of Fairfax County Libraries.

Environmental Committee Update:

Chair of the CWCA Environmental Committee, Neil Ende, advised that he and his wife Elizabeth have lived in Chesterbrook Woods for 22 years and moved to this neighborhood because of the beautiful trees. He talked about the growing concern in the neighborhood that as builders are using a 'scorched earth' approach to building and in the process are removing many (and sometimes all) large trees on the lot. This results in a huge reduction in tree canopy, changes the look of the lot and can result in drainage issues for neighbors and in some cases damage to neighbor's trees. In some cases, the former owners have expressed extreme surprise and concern about the approach that builders have taken in the redevelopment. At the spring 2013 meeting, Neil proposed that CWCA develop a pledge which would follow tree-friendly building practices. The environmental committee would then reach out to builders to develop a list of builders who would agree to follow the '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](#). Neil introduced Doug who gave a short presentation on why it's important to protect trees. As background, Doug discovered a passion for building when he joined BOWA in 1989. He worked as a carpenter, project manager and team leader, becoming an owner of the company in 2003. Today, Doug combines his enthusiasm for great building and extensive knowledge of construction, in a hybrid quality-training-R&D position focused on production best practices. He is a LEED Accredited Professional with the Homes specialty. He also carries certifications from the Building Performance Institute and is a NARI Green Certified Professional. Doug is an NAHB Certified Graduate Remodeler, and was the first

person in the Washington area to achieve the NAHB's Certified Green Professional designation. Doug serves on the D.C. AIA Committee on the Environment and the NARI Metro D.C. Green Building Committee, and has been an instructor for the NARI Green Remodeling class and a frequent speaker on green remodeling topics. Doug can be reached at doug@bowa.com or (703) 928-6643.

Doug explained that to protect a tree, you have to protect the circle around the tree. In this action, you are actually doing something that protects the environment more than a lawn does because this circle of land helps reduce water runoff to the Bay. Other benefits of protecting trees include:

- Trees lower temperatures which help to reduce peak energy.
- There is a major economic value of trees.
- Trees absorb pollution
- Trees provide habitat to animals
- Trees are pretty
- Trees protect our property values.

Doug explained that Green Building is complicated. There are three major areas you want your builder to consider:

- 1) Erosion Protection
- 2) Retaining as much of the trees on site as possible
- 3) Other lot coverage

Neil then circulated the proposed pledge for consideration by CWCA residents. Neil encourages residents to send him comments on the pledge so that it can be finalized and voted on at the Spring 2014 meeting. (See Attachment to view pledge).

Meeting Adjourned 8:40 pm.