

**Minutes of the Greater Farmland Civic Association (GFCA)
Board of Directors Meeting
April 10, 2019**

The Board of Directors of the Greater Farmland Civic Association met on April 10, 2019 at the home of GFCA President Ed Rich, 11703 Hitching Post Lane, Rockville, MD 20852 at 7:30 PM. Board members and Committee Chairs in attendance: Ed Rich, Toby Levin, Mark Friedman, Marjorie Railey, Tom Biggs, Scott Keohane, Emily Mintz, Jay Moore, Maureen Weaver and Karen Fricke. Ed Rich called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM

President's Report: Ed welcomed the new members, Jay and Maureen, and the board and committee chairs introduced themselves.

Ed reported that legislation about expanding 270 did not come to a vote. Don't Widen 270 and Citizens Against Beltway Expansion are two groups we are working with to fight the proposal. The Board of Public Works has to vote on all work in state. Ed is disappointed that there seems to be support for the expansion.

Ed & Scott have a meeting at 2PM on Monday with Montgomery County Director of Transportation to discuss conditions of neighborhood roads, adding stop signs around school, changing 2-way stop signs to 4-way, adding sidewalk on Farmland Dr., and planting street trees. An application for the sidewalk has already been made. There was an accident recently in which a Farmland student was struck on Farmland and Racehorse, and broke his foot. Flashing speed signs that are up in the neighborhood are also used to count traffic, which Ed thinks may be in preparation for this meeting. Elrich is supporting our requests. DOT did repaint all crosswalks and yellow stripes in neighborhood. Another issue to present to DOT: Need postings that trucks of a certain size are not allowed to come through neighborhood. Circles need repair—big rocks to prevent trucks from driving onto circles. Stop light getting out onto Montrose Road from Hitching Post Lane is too short--three cars max. Ed has been in touch with engineer responsible for that light.

Treasurer's Report: Tom reported that we 460 members. Total amount up by \$4500. Almost exactly where we were last year. \$4000 spent to date. In the next 2-4 months we anticipate spending 21K. It is still a deficit. We're doing fine. Membership dues is only thing that nets us anything.

Committee Reports:

Membership

Emily concurred that we are not at our goal. We need 40-50 new members to get there, but don't know how to get the rest of them. We will continue to send out emails and solicit membership at events. 40+ block captains have been asked to contact people on their streets to encourage membership. Some do; some don't feel comfortable. It is a massive task to reach out specifically to non-compliant families. Marjorie suggests that

approaching new families is best way to increase #s. Maureen will target mom's groups to remind friends to pay. Book club and garden club are also opportunities to encourage membership.

Landscaping and Environment

Pamela reported she and Scott will approach DOT to attempt to solve repetitive damage to circle at Old Stage. Marta has received letters to replace signage at Tildenwood and Montrose. We are going to clean up the wall, install planting out front, and add letters. She's been in contact with Department of Environmental Protection regarding problems with dog poop and poop bags being left in yards, streets. Goal is to identify locations with consistent problems. Dept. gave us literature and signs. Can post small plastic signs where there are consistent issues. Sales literature in plastic bags with stones is not allowed. Have to be placed in certain way and they have to have permit. Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Department of Environmental Protection will provide stencils for storm drains. We've got boy scouts who will do this as a service project. We'll start with highly visible storm drains. Our neighborhood has 31 common areas that belong to county but belong to us for maintenance. Some common areas are maintained by Trillium, some by neighbors (13); others are not maintained. We are offering \$100 per year to each common area that already has established landscaping. Will not pay for insecticide or fertilizers. Will pay for hardscape, mulch, trees, shrubs, or perennial plants with receipts. Pamela will talk to Trillium about cost of including those 13 areas in our maintenance contract. Could we ask Rick to do 60 second videos about something going on in the community? Pamela will talk to Rick. Karen suggested we remove letters on crumbling neighborhood signs on Tilden Lane and Old Stage Road if we are not going to repair them. Pamela said she will take care of this.

Garden Club

Karen reported that the club has a new website: gfgarden.club Next meeting is a perennial plant swap.

Yard Sale

Mark reported that the sale is scheduled for Sunday, 19th of May, 9 to 1. He has 10 new signs advertising registration. Rick turned on website for registration today. He has 20 "Yard Sale this Sunday" signs for Montrose Road and Tuckerman. Rick is storing all arrows, etc. Karen Lipsey is not going to be involved this year. Mark will need help finding volunteers to hand out maps. Pamela pointed out that we need to be careful with signage placement so we are in compliance with county.

Traffic/Pedestrian Safety

Scott reported that he and Ed have meeting on Monday. He is also planning to meet with Peggy on Hitching Post Court who is involved with the PTA and has good insight about bus routes and their issues. Concerns continue to be speed and routes of buses. Will talk to schools too. Scott questioned why we don't have orange blinking school speed zones signs and lights during school hours. Will mention it on Monday. Density of our neighborhood should require lower speeds and flashing signs. Tom says buses don't take routes they're supposed to take. Tom talked to county during Tilden rebuild and learned

that bus drivers are instructed on which routes to take, but there is no means of assessing compliance.

Block Captains

Marjorie reported that block captains have delivered almost all the directories. She is planning a thank-you event for block captains.

Social

Ed reported for Kathy on Community Day, scheduled for June 8. Pamela will contact reponies. KAH will have moon bounces and rock climbing wall. We have to hire their employees for supervising. DJ has been hired. Rick is looking into BBQ. She's talked to PTA to see if they want to do raffle. \$35 fee for non-members or membership. Wristbands will be used again.

New Business: Toby brought up need to make plans for July 4. Ed will talk to presidents of both pools to reach arrangement. Marjorie suggested that we need to have plans in place by May 30. Ed will contact pools. Board should consider possible parade routes.

Next board meetings July 10, Oct 2.

Karen moved and Pamela seconded adjourning. Adjourned at 9:07PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Fricke
Secretary