

**Minutes of the Greater Farmland Civic Association (GFCA)
Board of Directors Meeting
February 22, 2016**

The Board of Directors of the Greater Farmland Civic Association met on February 22, 2016 at the home of GFCA President Ed Rich, 11703 Hitching Post Lane, Rockville, MD 20852 at 7:30 PM. Board members Ed Rich, Tom Biggs, Marta Vogel, Lisa Woll, Meg Gold, Peter Rumm and Peggy Slye, along with Committee Chairs Paul Arveson, Emily Mintz , Pamela Levine and Tracy Miller attended this meeting. Kevin Novak and Toby Levin were absent. Ed Rich called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM

Community Forum/Member Comments: No comments were provided at this meeting.

President's Report: President Ed Rich reported on the very successful January 31, 2016 community winter festival event. Approximately 250 community members, including many children, attended the party. The entertainment, designed to be enjoyable for children and adults, was very well received. Local businesses provided support for the party by donating refreshments and the effort of multiple community volunteers contributed significantly to the event. In reviewing the event, Board members suggested that working from a blueprint of available space and additional advance notice of the event would improve future events. The timing of the event was also very positive and Board members agreed that a similar event planned to take place next year at approximately the same would be a very positive addition to the social calendar.

The Board expressed special thanks to President Ed Rich for his leadership role in proposing, coordinating and implementing this event. Other suggestions for next year's event included the possible addition of a book exchange with a focus on literature for children, tracking how community members learned of the event in order to improve publicity for future events and the offer of a community member, Rick Gentry, to update and serve as the administrator for the community Facebook page, Greater Farmland. The approximate cost of the event was \$2,050.57 to date including the cost of a direct mailing to all community homes of approximately \$500. The preliminary budget estimate was approximately \$1000.

The President and the Board also discussed preparations for the upcoming nomination and election of new GFCA Board Members. Toby Levin volunteered to lead the nominating committee. Ed Rich, Marta Vogel and Peggy Slye volunteered to assist with nominating committee tasks. Three Board Members' terms are expiring this spring: Lisa Woll, Marta Vogel and Peter Rumm. Peter Rumm agreed to be nominated again.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tom Biggs reported that current funds on hand include: \$18,230.66 in Checking, \$4,046.55 in Savings, and \$1,168.09 in the GFCA Pay Pal account. Tom Biggs noted the need to prepare a preliminary budget for current year expenses and indicated that some events, e.g. the community yard sale may require an increased budget based on the outcome of prior events. Additional items for inclusion in

the draft budget are estimates for beautification which include maintenance of key common areas in the community as well as plans to improve several other common areas, based on the overarching design plan developed last year. Board members also discussed the feasibility of repair and maintenance for the decorative brick walls at various entrances to the community. Membership Chair Emily Mintz and the Board thanked Tom Biggs for his positive and proactive efforts as Treasurer, especially with respect to effective and timely handling of membership information and dues transactions.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Committee Chair Emily Mintz reported that the GFCA currently has a membership of 390 as a result of the annual GFCA membership drive. The membership goal, which was achieved last year, is 450 which would represent approximately 40% of all community households. Additional outreach efforts are required to reach the goal again this year. A list of households, including those who are currently non-members, has been prepared for each block captain. It was agreed that a meeting with block captains to review key outreach requirements and to develop new approaches for attracting additional members and welcoming new neighbors would be helpful. A-Z will be requested to print the new community directories now. When the directories are available for distribution, a meeting for block captains will be scheduled. Additional outreach materials will be list of key GFCA activities and events, with photos, with be developed by Ed Rich to assist block captains in their contacts. This brochure / flyer will also be posted to the Facebook page and distributed via the community Listserv to remind community members of GFCA initiatives. Community businesses will be contacted to request donation of gift certificates as a welcome for new community members.

Beautification - Committee Chair Pamela Levine reported very positive feedback had been received from the community on the GFCA efforts to date. However, volunteer support is lagging and it would be helpful to shift volunteer efforts to more interesting and creative efforts than maintenance of the community common areas. The Board agreed that a maintenance estimate should be included in the draft budget to facilitate this plan and related issues can also be included in future agendas for discussion.

Transportation - Committee Chair Tracy Miller reported that, while many items are still in progress, the Tilden/Rock Terrace school merger feasibility study was actively underway. The study will be moving to the Design Phase and, as an element of that work, a transportation study would be implemented. Several potential transportation safety issues have been identified including the need to improve sidewalks, the possibility of adding pylons between the cycle lanes and traffic lanes. Community input will be solicited on the design phase issues. Tom Biggs added that the WJ Cluster Roundtable discussions take place every Wednesday and several issues of possible concern have emerged, including the fact that, in addition to already high current and projected school enrollments throughout the cluster, the potential for adding additional residential units to commercial projects/on commercial land exists throughout the cluster.

Energy and Government Affairs – Committee Chair Paul Arveson reported that The PEPCO/Excelon merger is moving toward final approval with only the Public Service Commission for the District of Columbia’s agreement still needed for finalization, other local jurisdictions’ approval has already been secured. Paul Arveson also provided details of the Solar City program, which offers leased solar equipment to interested homeowners. The program offers homeowners the opportunity to cover approximately 90% of their residential energy. The Federal tax incentive support of this program has just been extended for five additional years. WSSC regularly reports on the annual tests of local water quality to customers. The most recent tests indicate that water quality in the WSSC service areas continues to be well within published safety standards. Homeowners whose older homes may contain lead solder materials on copper pipes and /or interior or exterior paint need to remain vigilant on those issues. Paul Arveson also noted that, given this is an election year, the GFCA might wish to sponsor or co-sponsor a local candidates’ forum. It was suggested that GFCA coordinate with the Luxmanor Civic Association regarding possible collaboration on sponsorship of a planned Board of Education candidates forum. It was also agreed that information about the forthcoming candidates’ forum scheduled to be held in Rockville City and Walt Whitman High School be published on the Listserv.

New Business: No new business was introduced at this meeting.

Other Business:

Next Meetings: The remaining GFCA Board of Directors meetings will be held on May 25, August 22 and November 15, 2016 at 7 PM. The next GFCA Community meeting will be held on April 6, 2016 at 7:30 PM. GFCA Community Members are welcome to attend all GFCA Board of Directors meetings.

Adjournment was moved, seconded and approved unanimously; the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.