

**Minutes of the Greater Farmland Civic Association (GFCA)
Board of Directors Meeting
May 3, 2016**

The Board of Directors of the Greater Farmland Civic Association met on May 3, 2016 at the home of GFCA President Ed Rich, 11703 Hitching Post Lane, Rockville, MD 20852 at 7:30 PM. Board members Ed Rich, Toby Levin, Rick Gentry, Peter Rumm and Peggy Slye, along with Committee Chairs Paul Arveson, Marta Vogel, Emily Mintz, Pamela Levine, Tracy Miller and Kathy Hoffman attended this meeting. Kevin Novak, Meg Gold and Tom Biggs were absent. Ed Rich called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM

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

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the GFCA Community Meeting on April 6, 2016 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tom Biggs provided information on GFCA finances which were reported by Emily Mintz as follows: Checking \$15,349.89; Savings \$4,046.85; and PayPal \$1,312.06 for a total of \$20,708.80 cash on hand. Anticipated near term expenses include an estimated \$600 for the annual community yard sale and approximately \$2,000 for the annual community 4th of July celebration.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Committee Chair Emily Mintz reported that the GFCA currently has a membership of 409 households as a result of the annual GFCA membership drive; last year's membership total was 450. The new community directories are available and most have been distributed.

Beautification - Committee Chair Pamela Levine reported very positive feedback had been received from the community on the GFCA efforts to date. The circle on Old Stage Road has been groomed with the assistance of community volunteers. The circle on Breezewood is maintained by a neighbor on that street. Contractors have been engaged to refresh the mulch and weed the community common areas. More community volunteer effort has been forthcoming this year. Next steps include posting areas which are still in need of beautification / clean-up efforts, enlisting the assistance of a local master gardener as a potential speaker and planning for a plant swap. Other issues in need of follow-up action include lawn maintenance contractors who sweep lawn debris into the street; signs posted and left on common areas in the community; the removal of the non-working clock on the Tilden Woods entrance and researching new/replacement lettering for community entrances.

Transportation - Committee Chair Tracy Miller reported that she has been working with John Simon, the Luxmanor Civic Association Chair on Transportation and Safety issues and several areas of potential collaboration include: sharing newsletter/Facebook page space and exchanging information on transportation and safety issues pertinent to both communities and possible cooperation on stop sign cameras in both communities. The Board raised a question about cameras at the local schools which could help increase safety in the area immediately around school grounds; this question will be explored in collaboration with local PTAs. Efforts to increase safety for cyclists, pedestrians and those with strollers are being monitored. Next steps may include the possibility of a safety related event in conjunction with a community social gathering.

Energy and Government Affairs – Committee Chair Paul Arveson reported that, while the PEPCO/Exelon merger has been approved by all local Public Service Commissions, a petition to have the merger overturned has been circulated. The Board agreed that the petition as well as the letter which presented the case to the County Council could be added to the community Listserv so that individual community members could consider the issue and take action if they desired to do so. Paul Arveson also reported that milkweed which is essential to monarch butterflies existed in the wild near the I270 and Montrose Road interchange. It can also be planted, along with other key plants, in community gardens to help sustain the butterflies. He will also reach out to PEPCO to encourage the addition of these plants to their right of way areas throughout the county.

New Business:

Community Yard Sale – Event Chair Karen Lipsy reported that the annual community yard sale would be held on June 26th. Save the date signs will be posted throughout the community in advance of the announcement of the event. Advertising in advance of the event will be revised this year and the Washington Post notice will be discontinued. Notices will be posted at local Giant Food stores and will be included in local Church bulletins. The GFCA Facebook page will also carry the yard sale information. The registration cost for this event will remain at \$10 per household to encourage community members to participate. Volunteers will be needed to distribute maps on the day of the event and to assist with the processing of payment information in advance of the event.

Community Dance Event – A community dance event will be held on May 22, 2016, from 3-5 pm at Farmland Elementary School. The dance which will include a fiddler and dance caller is suitable for all ages and all community members are welcome to attend.

Tilden Recreation Center Refurbishment – President Ed Rich reported that the interior work on the Tilden Recreation Center is nearly complete and that will conclude Phase One of the planned renovations. The Board discussed the possibility of holding a community event there in the near future. Potential events which might be held at the Tilden Recreation Center include: a “Storm Camp”, a community Open House, and /or a “Neighbor to Neighbor” presentation. The Board agreed that using the community bulletin board and Facebook page to announce the completion of the renovations would be helpful.

GFCA Website/ Facebook Page Updates – Rick Gentry reported that the GFCA website was being updated to include current information on Board Officers and members. Next steps will include considering a new hosting location for the website and a review of the current GFCA related email addresses which may need to be revised. Sharing information for posting with the Luxmanor Civic Association will be considered. Rick Gentry also reported that the GFCA Facebook page is being updated. Information for the community website and Facebook page can be provided directly to Rick, communications@greaterfarmland.org.

Other Business:

The Board agreed that the GFCA should reach out to new neighbors moving into the community via a letter from the GFCA along with a **Welcome Package**. The Board also agreed that it would be helpful to have a **Welcome Committee** of 2-3 individuals who could share the leadership of this effort and rotate responsibility for the outreach activities. Requesting volunteers for the welcome committee outreach will be done via the community Listserv and the “Old Farm Mommies” email distribution.

The Board welcomed Kathy Hoffman as the **New Social Committee Chair**.

Ed Rich will form a planning group to prepare for the **annual 4th of July celebration**.

Next Meetings: The remaining GFCA Board of Directors meetings in 2016 will be held on **August 22** and **November 15, 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.