

Minutes of the Greater Farmland Civic Association (GFCA)

Board of Directors Meeting August 17, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Greater Farmland Civic Association met on August 17, 2022, via zoom. Board members in attendance: Diana Keohane, Jeremy Martinich, Julie Merberg, Marjorie Raley, Ed Rich, Jason Smith, and Elaine Spero along with community members Elliott Levine, Pamela Levine, Jerry Mindes, Emily Mintz, and Reva Stidd. President Diana Keohane called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Old Business

Bylaws and Association Procedures Amendments: Diana Keohane recommended pushing off the consideration of changes to the GFCA bylaws and procedures until a later date. Jason will circulate some proposed ideas before the next board meeting for consideration.

New Business

Social Committee: Kathy Hoffman has let Diana know that she is having surgery and is not able to continue to chair the Social Committee. Diana will draft a job description which she will circulate to the community seeking a new committee chair. Julie will send Kathy a card on behalf of the board wishing her good health.

Listserv: Diana will be added as an owner of the Groups.io listserv, and she will create a new subgroup that will be board members only. This new group will be in addition to the board plus committee chairs group. There was discussion about forming a Technology Committee to help community members seeking assistance with tech issues and to help manage the website and listserv.

Community Meeting: GFCA's next scheduled community meeting is Wednesday, September 14 at 7:00 pm. After discussion, it was decided that the topic would be a report from the Traffic and Safety Committee. Jason will consolidate the information, and Elaine offered to help assemble the presentation. Julie will invite the new Tilden Middle School principal to attend, and Elaine will invite the Farmland Elementary principal.

Sports Equipment Swap: Elaine received approval from the board to go ahead with a neighborhood sports equipment. Items will be collected on a September Saturday at the circle at the end of Tilden Lane (by Elaine's house). They will then be sorted and then set out for collection either the next day or the next weekend. Elaine will look at places to donate excess items (Level the Playing Field was recommended). Other possible items for future swaps include snow gear and Halloween costumes.

Halloween Event: It was the consensus of the board that planning will move forward on a Halloween event on Sunday, October 30th. Since there is no longer an in-school parade at

Farmland Elementary, holding a costume parade will not duplicate the school event.

Winter on the Farm: The board agreed to move forward with the annual Winter on the Farm event on Saturday, January 8, 2023 at Farmland Elementary. Julie will make arrangements to set up a new account for GFCA with the County to reserve the space; the account will be linked to the generic GFCA email so that it can be transferred easily when officers move on. Pamela will check with a raptor organization to see if they can provide a demonstration at the event. It was agreed that the best way to proceed with COVID restrictions is to monitor conditions in Montgomery County and to follow the County's guidelines for public events.

Tilden Lane Circle Improvements: Elaine detailed the concerns of the residents of the Tilden Lane circle. The circle has been the location of illicit activities and often has careless drivers who are looking for a way to access I-270. As a result, the residents are seeking support from the GFCA for their petition to add street lighting and possibly other traffic measures. Pamela has also been working with the neighbors on a claim with GEICO for damage done to the circle by a drunk driver. The issues were referred to the Traffic and Safety Committee which will meet on August 30th.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

June 1/June 15 - Diana moved and Jason seconded the approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from the June 1, 2022 (with a continuation on June 15, 2022). The minutes were approved.

March 23 – Diana moved and Jason seconded the approval of the General Membership Meeting Minutes from March 23, 2022 with Emily’s corrections. The minutes were approved.

February 16 – Diana moved and Elaine seconded the approval of the Board Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2022. The minutes were approved.

Report of the Membership Committee: All directories and 22 welcome packets have been passed along to volunteers for distribution.

Report of the Traffic and Safety Committee: A new stop sign will be installed at the intersection of Farmland Drive and Rolling House, and speed bumps for Hitching Post were not approved because the street is not seeing traffic at 15 mph over the current speed limit.

Report of the I-270 and Government Affairs Committee: The federal government is still working on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the I-270 expansion project, but it is unlikely that this will be approved to allow Maryland Governor Hogan to act on the proposal before he leaves office. Elliott Levine will share the Sierra Club’s response which Emily will post on the GFCA website.

Report of the Welcome Committee: Marjorie will work with Emily to order additional supplies for the welcome packets.

The next board meeting is set for Wednesday, October 12, 2022
at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Merberg
Secretary