

**Minutes of the Greater Farmland Civic Association (GFCA)
Board of Directors Meeting
April 19, 2021**

The Board of Directors of the Greater Farmland Civic Association met on April 19, 2021, via zoom. Board Members and Committee Chairs in attendance: Ed Rich, Toby Levin, Marjorie Railey, Diana Keohane, Emily Mintz, and Karen Fricke. Tom Biggs is in the hospital. Marta Vogel also attended, and nobody noticed that she wasn't also a board member. Ed Rich called the meeting to order at 7:10PM

Approval of Minutes of 12/12/20 Board Meeting was deferred until Ed distributes the minutes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: I-270 petition was unsuccessful. Emily suggested we need a committee to approach this from many angles. Marjorie is also interested in such a committee. Emily suggested that we have a committee with a titular head that can be a contact point to help people in the community get more involved. Ed will send out an email to the community asking for interest. Diana suggested a concise educational approach to inform the community about what their personal stake is and what the governor's proposals will entail. Marjorie thinks we need to have a page on the website with a summary, testimonies that Ed and Marjorie have given, and information about how the community can get involved. Toby suggested some sort of GFCA I-270 banner identifying this issue. Having more people monitoring the news will help us all keep abreast of what's happening.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tom sent in his report, which is attached. Summary: Because we did not spend any money on Community Day or July 4 celebrations, our expenses were not as extensive as last year. We've spent \$1600 so far in 2021 on insurance and landscaping. Anticipate \$2500 to \$3000 going out soon for administrative and landscaping. No balance given. Emily says we need to consistently put the budget on the website, and present it in a familiar format. We need to consistently have reportable numbers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Emily reported that we have 433 paid members, which is fewer than our goal of 500, but a good number considering we've had no in-person gatherings to recruit new members or remind existing members to pay.

Landscaping and Environment: Pamela submitted a report, with commentary on items on the agenda, which is attached.

Garden Club: We will be starting to meet in person at some time in the future, but until then, we are on hold.

Welcome: Emily thinks the questionnaire to join the listserv is excessive and should be simplified. The multiple and rather intrusive questions may be an attempt to make sure they are real people, but Diana suggests that we address the problem if it arises, rather than make it onerous for community members to join. **Toby moved and Diana seconded that the listserv**

questionnaire should ask only for name, phone numbers, address, and whether or not they are new to the neighborhood, so that a welcome bag can be delivered, and, finally, if they'd like to share any additional information with the community. Unanimously approved.

Social: no report

Yard Sale: no report

Traffic/Pedestrian Safety: no report. Ed would like to get volunteers to go out in the evening to identify the street lights that are either out completely, or flickering on and off. Toby suggested asking for volunteers in the community to complete this task. Perhaps we could have a form on the website that people could fill in to report potholes, bad street lights, and dead trees. Diana volunteered to create a reporting form.

NEW BUSINESS:

Future Zoom Meetings: We had 50 people join our last zoom community meeting. Ed would like to have a meeting in May, inviting Washington Gas and WSSC, to talk about infrastructure. Our next community meeting, including elections, is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26 at 7PM. That will give us enough time to send something out to allow for self-nominations. Emily will put an announcement in the newsletter. Emily suggested that we schedule an open meeting two weeks later with an open forum. She said that once-a-month open forums might be a good way to allow the community to express concerns. June 9 at 7PM is scheduled for the first GFCA Open Forum. We can decide at a future time if we want to do this on a continuing basis.

Toby moved that we will continue Conversations program by holding periodic zoom meetings to discuss various themes, particularly focusing on racial equity and social justice. Diana seconded. Unanimously approved.

Community Infrastructure: Mark mentioned in his email with comments about the items on the agenda, that we are getting a raw deal compared to Luxmanor. MDOT claims Luxmanor met the criteria for improvement and we didn't. Toby said that they don't understand is that we have so many issues with Washington Gas digging up the roads, then inadequate repairs by some independent contractors. Emily says we should wait until Washington Gas finishes replacing the gas lines and THEN pave the roads. If MDOT does its work before the lines are replaced, then Washington Gas will just damage them again.

Annual Elections: Toby reported that we need to reach out to young families to get representation from younger and newer residents. Ed, Toby, and Karen are willing to continue serving, if elected. Maureen will be leaving.

Listserv Guidelines: Diana says that many people have complained that they don't like moderation. Diana moved that a new listserv member will be moderated for a period of time, then their postings will no longer be moderated. Toby seconded. Ed said that the moderators delete a lot of extraneous stuff, with directions to send reply to sender. Eliminating moderation will result in a lot of unnecessary posts going through to community. Most moderation is educating people to reply to sender. More than one person has brought it up to Diana that they

don't like their posts being moderated. Some of the rejections are because of no hashtags, no address, etc. These are automatically rejected and never reach the moderators. Diana commented that the hashtags requirement can be eliminated. It was suggested that Tom's emails with Listserv Guidelines are sent so frequently and are so detailed that some people never read the whole thing. The board needs to determine the purpose of the guidelines. Emily suggested that if groups io can turn off the hashtags requirement, we should do so. **Diana modified her motion to also include the following: we will remove requirements for hashtags.** We update the Listserv Guidelines to make them concise and more easily digestible. If people are getting too many irrelevant emails, then we can revisit the issue. **Unanimously approved.** Diana will create a google doc with a revision of the Listserv Guidelines and take a first stab at it.

Trash Collection: Diana would like to get enough families who have private trash and leaf collection to switch over to Montgomery County. The several private companies come earlier than 7am, and are not good for the environment, pedestrian traffic or roadways. She asked for support from GFCA to solicit community members affected by private trash pick up to get county trash and bulk leaf pick up. It was suggested that GFCA support is not appropriate, as this is the decision of only those currently affected. Diana will reach out to gather preferences of the residents who are affected and work with them.

In-Person Events: Subject to covid. Emily suggested that by August we might be able to gather. County sets guidelines. TBD. Masks? Social distancing? What if someone arrives without a mask? This conversation will need to continue.

Other New Business: Neighbors, especially older kids on the playground, don't always respect mask mandate. Could we ask the principal of the school to post signs about wearing masks on the playground? Toby suggested a liason between school and GFCA who would give reports at our board meetings and make posts on our listserv. PTA President? Appoint someone? We need an institutional conduit with the public schools. It was suggested that Ed send out personal invitations to our board meetings to the PTA presidents.

Marta asked why the porta-pottys at Tilden Park are only there in spring and summer. Ed said he would contact Parks Department to look into it.

Just a reminder that board members need to send Rick any postings for website. Events need to be posted.

How often is the board supposed to meet? Quarterly. It was agreed that that was sufficient. Our next board meeting will be June 30, at 7pm.

Adjournment was moved by Diana and Toby seconded. Adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Fricke
Secretary