

**Minutes of the Greater Farmland Civic Association (GFCA)
Board of Directors Meeting
June 30, 2021**

The Board of Directors of the Greater Farmland Civic Association met on June 30, 2021, via zoom. Board members and Committee Chairs in attendance: Ed Rich, Toby Levin, Marjorie Railey, Tom Biggs, Diana Keohane, Julie Merberg, Emily Mintz, Pamela Levine, and Karen Fricke. Community members Kathy Hoffman, Marta Vogel, Diane Hollenbeck, Brian Corrado, and “DS” also attended. Ed Rich called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM

Approval of Minutes of 4/19/21 and 5/26/21 Board and Community Meetings. Tom moved to approve the minutes. Diana seconded. Unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Toby moved and Emily seconded that all matters regarding I-270 should be handled by Ed and Marjorie, and that we trust them to represent our interests. Unanimously approved. Ed recounted how the Regional Transportation Planning Board had removed the I-270 project from the regional transportation plan, and how he and Marjorie have continued to stay on top of this project that would affect our neighborhood. Ed and Marjorie will keep the community updated. Ed proposed that the GFCA circulate a survey to neighborhood members asking what they would like to see from the GFCA. Marjorie suggested we set a time frame for sending out the survey. The Board approved moving forward with a survey. Diana volunteered to draft the survey for Board review and approval.

TREASURER’S REPORT: *See attached budget and expense report.* Tom presented the budget for approval. The overage that is there at the moment is only because of the lack of expenditure during the Covid-19 Pandemic shutdown. Emily moved and Toby seconded that we accept Tom’s budget and expense report for approval and posting on the website. Unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Emily has printed the directory using the old system. She added all of the people that had sold or purchased homes gleaned from public records. We have four or five real estate agents advertising in the directory. The new system has excellent bookkeeping tools. It keeps a running total of members. We have 465 members as of today. The system has all sorts of capability that will prove useful in many ways. Emily would like to have more current information on the I-270 expansion project to add to the website. Marjorie and Ed will send this information to Emily.

Landscaping and Environment: Existing plants at Old Farm sign are rebounding and won’t need to be replaced. We need to plant new shrubs at Tilden Woods sign. Waiting to hear back from county on public right of way tree trimming, especially whether we can take on some of the pruning ourselves. Marta noted that a poison ivy vine is damaging the Tilden Woods sign. Dog poo is still a problem in the neighborhood. A couple of years ago, Ed approached county arborist about requesting street trees. They committed to supplying 15 to 20 for our neighborhood each year. He will revisit this program and report back.

Welcome: Emily is rewriting website and welcome committee materials. Marjorie, Rick, and Emily share a Google Doc that includes recently sold houses and whether a welcome bag has been delivered to the new family.

Traffic/Pedestrian Safety: Tom brought up his concern about the opening of Tilden Middle School. We need to look out for the problems with traffic, etc. that we will encounter. Marjorie suggested that we reach out to community members to fill some of the gaps. The Board is looking for a new Chair for the committee.

Gas Leak Update: Ed circulated on the listserv the report that Daminiqne Branch of Washington Gas presented at the Community Meeting on 5/26/21. Toby and Emily expressed concern that there has been little follow up from our meeting. Ed says he has no problems elevating this issue to our county councilman. Toby said that repair is not a solution. We need pipe replacement. Ed will follow up on this.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Events: Due to the continuing COVID-19 Pandemic, Ed suggested that we should avoid sponsoring group events that could lead to community spread and potential legal issues for the Association. Tom mentioned that with fall holidays and Covid-19 issues, in addition to the new Delta variant of the virus, it makes sense to postpone even the yard sale until next year. There is no way to enforce a requirement for vaccinations or masks. The board consensus was to postpone until next year.

Toby suggested that we engage the community for Halloween this year in the same manner as last year. Diana will be lead on this.

Diana will send out a post about Fourth of July house decorating contest every day going forward. Marjorie and Tom are prepared to install flags for July 4. Laura Rich is recruiting judges. Marjorie will deliver winner signs to Ed's front porch.

Community Meeting September 8, 2021 with PEPCO: Tentative date set. 7PM Zoom meeting. PEPCO will make presentation. County Councilman Evan Glass will be invited to join to meet the community.

Schools Update: *See attached schools report by Julie.* Toby suggested we have a meeting with school PTAs or principals so the community could be more informed about what's happening. Emily said that an October or November meeting devoted to schools would be very useful. Emily will post the report on the website.

Listsrv Rules and Etiquette: Tom and Diana presented the edited listsrv rules and guidelines. Several additional edits were made during discussion. Diana moved that we accept the edits as presented in the Google Doc and Toby seconded. Unanimously approved. Diana/Tom will post the new listsrv rules and etiquette

Board Officer Election: Diana was nominated for the new position of VP by Toby; Emily seconded. Unanimously approved. Toby nominated Tom as Treasurer; Diana seconded. Unanimously approved. Karen was nominated for secretary by Toby; seconded by Emily. Unanimously approved. Ed Rich was nominated as President by Toby; seconded by Tom; Unanimously approved.

Other New Business:

Brian asked when the board meeting had been announced. He had not seen any announcement, even when he checked the website. Emily said it was under Governance, but that it is difficult to find and should be posted on the homepage. A listsrv message should be announced earlier. He also asked where to find the minutes of previous board meetings on the website, and Emily informed him of the location. Diana suggested sending out a listsrv message after each board meeting announcing that the minutes from the previous meeting are available and how to find them on the website. Brian is disappointed that there will be no 4th of July parade this year and that the board did not announce it to the community or invite input. He does not agree with the decision not to host the parade, and especially at the lack of communication with the community. There was a suggestion to host a community sponsored parade without GFCA sponsorship. Ed is concerned about avoiding legal problems if someone were to contract the COVID-19 virus while attending a GFCA sponsored event, particularly because most County residents under 19 are not vaccinated and there is no vaccine available for kids under 12. As a board, we decided several months ago not to have

gatherings this year. Several board members agreed with Brian that we dropped the ball in communicating this decision. Toby suggested that we could have thought more creatively about ways to engage the community for the 4th. The board apologized to Brian and committed to make a concerted effort to inform the community of decisions in a timely manner, and to present the board meeting agendas and meeting times in advance so that community members can weigh in on issues important to them.

Our next Board Meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2021, at 7PM. Emily will post this on the website

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Fricke
Secretary