

**Minutes of the Greater Farmland Civic Association (GFCA)  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 10, 2019**

The Board of Directors of the Greater Farmland Civic Association met on September 10, 2019 at the home of GFCA President Ed Rich, 11703 Hitching Post Lane, Rockville, MD 20852 at 7:38 PM. Board members and Committee Chairs in attendance: Ed Rich, Toby Levin, Marjorie Railey, Tom Biggs, Scott Keohane, Emily Mintz, Jay Moore, Maureen Weaver, Kathy Hoffman and Karen Fricke. Also in attendance, Christine Hellane, a representative of Villages. Ed Rich called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM

**President's Report:** The date of Community meeting has been changed to 9/21 at 7 pm at Farmland Elementary to accommodate the council member's schedule. The second speaker is Pazit Aviv to speak about Villages. The stop signs have been installed. We are still missing street striping. Ed continues to call DOT to ask for updates, but has received no response. He hasn't heard back from the county on the proposal to install sidewalks. If they do decide to go forward, there will be public hearings. There is no news on the I-270 construction. Marc Elrich is fighting it.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom reported that membership is down 4.4%. Revenues are up because of the higher membership fee. We spent more on our events than anticipated.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership** We are somewhere in the 480 range. The committee will start the drive for membership for the upcoming year on October 1. The fee will remain at \$35. Emily asked how the board feels about options for 2 or 3 year memberships. It would be easy to keep track of it software-wise, but difficult for people to remember when/if they paid. Is it worth the effort? Could we offer Venmo payment? Emily will research adding this method for payment. Emily made a motion to create 1, 2, and 3-year options. Ed seconded. The board voted that she will create this option as a trial.

**Landscaping and Environment**

Pamela reported that the committee collaborated with an Eagle Scout and a Boy Scout troop to paint 13 drains in visible locations at major cross streets. There are more that should be done. They received great response from drive-by neighbors. There is paint left over. The cost was \$156 total. The scout uniform allowed them to receive 50% off at Home Depot. They enjoyed it, worked hard, and told the troop that we would like to collaborate with them on future projects. Pamela is hoping to talk to Trillium to see about taking over additional areas. She needs to work on the Tilden Woods sign. Pamela will contact Marta about that. It was suggested that we should remove existing letters from Old Farm sign on Tilden Lane.

**Garden Club**

Karen reported that the club continues to meet monthly. In July we had Montgomery County Beekeepers Association talk to our group. This Sunday, the Department of

Environmental Protection for Montgomery County will inform us of the new MoCo Law concerning lawn treatments. Our next meeting is a perennial plant swap. Karen will mention a holiday decoration competition and see if anyone wants to take that on.

### **Traffic/Pedestrian Safety**

Scott has received no firm answer from police. It was suggested that we could hire MoCo police during rush hour to mitigate behaviors of those driving through our neighborhood not obeying limits and laws. If we have the budget, Scott would like to proceed. Scott will research more and will report back to us at the next meeting. It was suggested that it might be possible to put a “rookie” on it stop signs, etc. The issue was raised of stopped cars immediately after the turn off Montrose Road onto Hitching Post Lane. Scott asked the county for a no stopping sign. They painted a white line, which serves no purpose. There is a garbage truck company that comes Tue and Fri as early as 6am. Scott will contact them to remind them they can't come before 7am. The stop light on Montrose Road and Hitching Post Lane can be very short. Even at rush hour, there are times when only three cars can make it through the light before it changes. Ed and Jay say they think it has been dealt with. It was asked if there is a process for asking if Ride-On can install a bike rack by the bus stop on Montrose Road. How about a benches? Is it possible to post the bus schedule on a sign next to the stop?

**Block Captains:** Marjorie spoke to all the block captains, and they do not want to recruit for membership. One block captain had a neighbor threaten her. It is a form of soliciting. There is a range of what block captains want to be doing. Marjorie doesn't even think there would be interest in coming to an event. She would like to do a thank you gift. Is it possible to purchase hats for all the block captains? There are 37 block captains. Ed will purchase 50. The captains are willing to drop things off, but not knocking on doors. It was suggested that they be given a small menu of options to make the job less onerous. We need to try to galvanize them to alert us when there is a new family. Block captains need to let Rick know if there is a new neighbor so we can deliver baskets. It would be helpful to have a meeting with Emily, Marjorie, and Rick to discuss new neighbor bags. Marjorie will remind them that they should let her know when new people move in.

**Social** The next event is Winter on the Farmland. The date has been set for January 11, 2020, a Saturday, from 2 - 5. Ed will reserve the school. The Raptor Conservancy may not be able to come. Pamela will see if we can get another nature center group. Should we have a snowman rather than Santa since it will be past Christmas? Mad Science? The board agreed on Mad Science. Kathy will check on the cost. Have we applied for granting matching funds? They are looking for people to apply. Jay will get the application and Ed will submit the application.

### **New Business:**

Christine Hellane attended the meeting to present about Villages. 300 neighbors have received surveys. She will write something up for the newsletter. It should mention the difference between Villages and the neighborhood list serve so that the question of

redundancy is addressed. Christine suggested that the number one thing that this will help with is driving. It is separate from the civic association. The concern of competing volunteer needs and events was raised. Christine explained it as an opportunity to reach out to people who need help, especially those aging in place.

There is concern about the state of landscaping on Montrose Parkway. Ed will contact them to get us on list.

Next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13.

Karen moved and Toby seconded adjourning. Adjourned at 9:07PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Fricke  
Secretary