

Minutes of January 7, 2007 RCHCA Meeting

Joe Rosenberg, President of RCHCA, called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

The minutes from the October 11, 2006 meeting were approved by a show of hands.

Bob MacDowall, Treasurer of RCHCA, reported that our account balance rose this year from approximately \$24,000 to 25,000. He expects that income and expenditures to remain in balance this year. 454 households paid dues last year, and 133 have paid dues already this year.

The Treasurer's report was approved by a show of hands.

Elections

Shannon Hamm, Vice-President of RCHCA and Chair of the Elections Committee, reported that the current Board had agreed to serve another year if no other candidates came forward. She asked for nominations from the floor. None forthcoming, the current officers were re-elected: Joe Rosenberg, President; Shannon Hamm, Vice-President; Bob MacDowall, Treasurer; and Alexa Freeman, Secretary. Jed Dinger will continue to edit the newsletter and Mike Baker will continue to chair the Traffic Committee. Vincent De Cain has agreed to chair the Covenants Committee. All covenant matters should be referred to him. He may be reached at 946-5129 or yfe@aol.com.

Old Business

A. Traffic Committee

Mike Baker reported on the special meeting that was held on October 26, 2006 to consider remedies for curbing speeding in the neighborhood. At that meeting, Tracy Wroe, from the Department of Public Works and Transportation, presented the results of the County's study of traffic speed and volume on various streets in the neighborhood. Of the streets studied, only Kensington Parkway and Saul Road qualify for County traffic calming measures. Mr. Wroe presented all the calming options and concluded by recommending speed humps. Following a lengthy question and answer period and discussion, the Association agreed by majority vote to let the process go forward. The County will now develop a plan which is expected to be ready in the spring. The final step in the process is for the residents on the two streets to be contacted and asked to vote on the plan. 80% concurrence is necessary for the speed humps to be installed.

B. Park Improvements

Shannon Hamm reported that all but the pavilion has been installed in Rock Creek Hills Park; this will be done as soon as the weather improves in the spring. She is now focusing on the greenway between Kingston and Kensington Parkway, in particular asking Parks and Planning to repair the WSSC pipe, damaged bridge and eroded creek

banks, all of which are safety hazards. A request will be submitted for a second bridge between Saul Road and East Bexhill. No commitment has been made for repairing the sidewalk along Kingston.

C. Covenants

Shannon Hamm reported that the covenants may be enforced by individual neighbors in the community but are not enforceable by the Association. This means that the covenant process is essentially neighbor notification. However, RCHCA will provide homeowners who have notified their neighbors and submitted their plans to the Covenants Committee with a green sign signifying Association approval. This sign may be posted along with the building permit.

D. Train Noise

Joe Rosenberg reported that CSX lawyers are looking at the ramifications of a “wayside horn” in lieu of the current deafening whistle. He promised to follow up with the State Highway Administration if need be to keep the process for getting this issue resolved on track.

E. Beltway Noise

Bob Price is chairing a new Beltway Noise Committee. Since the last study 3-5 years ago, new sound barriers have been installed on the south side. These barriers cause sound to bounce to the north. Karen Jaffe and Bob Price are researching the criteria for installation of sound barriers on the north. Anyone interested in working with the Committee should contact Bob.

New Business

A. RCH List Serve

Joe Rosenberg reported that there has been a great deal of discussion on the list serve about what is legitimate or not for posting. He gave a few examples of difficult questions: sales notices, candidate meet and greets, fundraisers, commercial business ads, babysitting. He noted that if RCHCA wants formal rules, it will have to find someone who will volunteer to enforce them. The Board will not enforce any standards because it would be immensely time-consuming. After discussion, it was decided by a vote that we would retain only the two rules we have at present: no commercial ads and no candidate fundraisers.

B. Community Involvement

This potluck was poorly attended, and except for the Concert in the Park and the Halloween Parade, few people participate in the community. During discussion of this problem, Bob MacDowall suggested that we ask for suggestions of community events or

undertakings in the newsletter and, of course, for volunteers. Shannon Hamm noted that we have an Events Committee but no chair. Two ideas were floated: stream clean up and ivy removal.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexa Freeman
Secretary