

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board

Luxmanor Citizen's Association

Monday, October 5, 2015

WELCOMING AND OPENING REMARKS: LCA President Abbe Milstein convened the meeting at 7:30 P.M. and welcomed 18 LCA Board members, residents and guests; and Appointed Sheri Steisel Weiss Sergeant-at-Arms and Jerry Ostrov, Parliamentarian.

REVIEW OF THE LAST EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES: The minutes for the LCA Board Meeting for September 8, 2015 were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Abbe, in the absence of Treasurer Barry Gudelsky, reported that more checks have been received from LCA residents joining the LCA.

DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING: Chair Chris Koegel reported that there will be a meeting to discuss the White Flint 2 Plan at the Luxmanor Elementary School on October 14, 2015 at 7:00 PM. Chris also attended the September 17 meeting of the Rock Spring and WF2 Master plan and said that the focus of the meeting was about schools. His take away was that most people were frustrated and angry because of the significant growth in the elementary, middle and high schools and that any more development will only exacerbate the situation. He said it was notable that no BoE representative, elected or staff, was in attendance. At the meeting there were four suggestions made to ease the overcrowding of the schools: reopen closed schools, open additional schools, build new schools and the redistricting of the students. Chris said that there was significant vocalization about Ashburton ES which led him to think that the LCA could do more about the schools situation by reaching out to other neighborhoods--perhaps by investigating and joining the Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF).

There was a discussion about schools overcrowding, new school construction and exactly what constitutes a moratorium of school construction. Abbe explained the definition of a moratorium and said that while the process might stop the planning of new buildings it wouldn't apply to projects already on the approved list.

There was a brief discussion of the pros and cons of joining the Montgomery County Civic Federation: the pros included connecting with the group now that the Bus Rapid Transit routes were being planned. Objections to joining with the group included the fact that MCCF has been perceived as anti-growth.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION: Chair Lis Herer introduced Stephanie Reimer of Reimer's Design Studio who spoke about the reasons for updating the old system of the LCA Website and ListServ – i.e. the ListServ site locks up, it will be more flexible, there have been issues with private communications being made public, Yahoo advertising

appearing on it, and some unsolicited posts, etc. Stephanie said that the ListServ could be moved from the Yahoo Groups and incorporated into the new Website which could be easily customized to suit the community's needs. The new site would include user profiles, could be used for online dues payments, monitoring and could have a searchable data base. There was also talk about setting up a monthly e-newsletter which could be funded by advertising revenue. This advertising e-zine would not replace the Greensheet which would remain an informational newsletter for the community.

MEMBERSHIP: Chair Marilyn Hammerman reported that in April, 1995 we had 528 out of 848 member households and in 2015 we have 506 member households out of 898 houses. Several suggestions were made for encouraging more residents to become members of the LCA and whether reducing fees would encourage people to join. Ed suggested that the personal touch – i.e. – have LCA members call and explain the reasons why residents should join the LCA might make a significant impact in adding new members.

GREENSHEET: Greensheet Editor Carin Cooper reported that to print and mail an 8 page newsletter (875 copies) it cost \$763.72. (See addenda at end of minutes submitted by Carin) This led to a discussion about needing a new computer program to set up the GreenSheet and it was suggested that there possibly is a free program on the Internet that we could use. Barry said the money for this year's Greensheet has already been budgeted and that any change would not be able to take effect until the 2016-2017 year.

TRAFFIC: In Chair Jon Simon's absence Abbe summarized his report concerning the need for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Network: She said that the network is needed because companies in the Rock Spring area need additional public transportation to attract more workers. The downside of the BRT plan is that the new Independent Authority could tax homeowners. There was a second brief discussion about joining the MCCF because the organization already has a good grasp of the BRT issues

About internal LuxManor roads Jon said the community needs to decide whether to remove the bike lanes on Tilden Lane and put "bump-outs" to slow down traffic. Jon is also looking into additional signage to prevent illegal parking near the Tilden holding school on weekends, and he's checking into the feasibility of a restricted turning sign at Tuckerman and Rosemont and/or Lux Lane to reduce the traffic cutting through the neighborhood during morning rush hour

SCHOOLS /COLLOCATION: Collocation Chair Rebeca Rudich and Schools Chair Nancy Delasos: There is a sign in front of the holding school notifying residents of "feasibility studies meetings" with the dates and locations for the meetings.

Rebecca reported that the WJ cluster will have 3,200 students by 2020 and an option for this overcrowding of students would be to reopen Woodward High School.

WELCOME/SOCIAL: Chair Nurit Coomb was absent but it was reported that the Matilda movie night was a success;

The LCA has a budget allocated for a Hallowe'en party but the home/place to hold it is still in discussion; and

A Books and Brunch event is planned.

NEW BUSINESS: There was a reminder of the Feasibility Study dates and locations.

COMMENTS: Rebecca informed the group that an opinion survey questionnaire went out to the PTA's of local schools concerning preferences for solving the overcrowding of Walter Johnson HS.

Abbe adjourned the meeting at 9:10 P.M.

GREENSHEET ADDENDA dated 11-9-2015 from Carin Cooper regarding Greensheet:

As Editor of the Greensheet, I am submitting a close projection of actual costs involved in the production of the LCA Greensheet

These costs are based on a circulation to 875 residents/locations (based on last years actual costs and circulation #s).

However, this year, as far as I know, we are up to 894 residences. The Greensheet may order additional (25?) copies to include LCA schools, etc. These additional copies and their associated costs are NOT included in these cost projections.

These costs assume the Greensheet to be an 8 page newsletter (lower production costs with bifold paper).

Printing and mailing 8 pg. Newsletter (875 copies): \$763.72
Postage ("Pre Sort Standard): based on 875 copies: \$233.00

*** Previous year's expenses included the annual purchase of Publishers' software for production/layout of Newsletter, estimated to be \$150.00
This year we are utilizing a software program readily available on MAC computers; no purchase of software necessary

*** LCA Board owns a Bulk Mail Permit ("PreSort Standard Mail" Permit).
The Greensheet committee needs to check on this permit's renewal status and date, and
cost of renewal of permit

*** The Greensheet Committee plans to produce a Greensheet Dec, March, May/June, and Sept (Back to School/Early Fall)
Quarterly Editions of Greensheet (tentative plan).

Respectfully Submitted,

Carin Cooper
Editor, Greensheet Newsletter
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