

Luxmanor Citizens Association

Minutes of the Bi-Annual General Membership Meeting

May 19, 2016

7:15 p.m.

Location of Meeting:

Trinity Lutheran Church
11200 Old Georgetown Road
Rockville, MD 20852

Present at Meeting: Community Members from Luxmanor, Windermere and The Oaks

The General Membership of the Luxmanor Citizens Association was called to order at 7:15 p.m. on May 19, 2016 at Trinity Lutheran Church by Sheri Weiss.

I. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was distributed and approved by the general membership.

II. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes for the previous meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

III. Consideration of Open Issues

1. Sheri Weiss Public Safety Committee Chair:
2. Officer Oliver Janney, MCPD presentation on the Luxmanor Traffic Enforcement Strategy: Q & A. Officer Janney discussed the LCA enforcement program and answered questions regarding there being no difference between an officer's role as an on-duty and off duty officer while in the neighborhood. He discussed theft from automobiles and reminded the attendees to make sure to lock your car doors.
3. Officer Janney: Active Shooter Training Video: Run/Hide/Fight was shown to the community. Always try to escape, evacuate and get yourself out of the line of fire in an active shooter situation. If you cannot escape, turn off your cell phone and hide. When those options are not available, fight the shooter.
Mall Shooting Incident: Q & A It happened once and it will happen again.
4. 8:30 p.m. Budget: Discussion and Q & A by Treasurer Burman Berger. Copies of the budget were distributed to the membership. Burman discussed the bylaw proposal to lower the annual dues to \$25.00 as one of the bylaws provisions. Along with that proposal, Burman made an adjustment to the budget to lower the amount of revenue on the budget pending the vote on the proposed dues bylaws. If the proposed bylaw

provision does not pass, the budget will need to be readjusted. Burman explained that most of the budget will be based on what the LCA did in 2016. The off-duty traffic study and enforcement was something that was in the budget to be funded from reserves. The Board took action on it and the program is now a line item in the budget. For right now we're using some of the reserve funding to pay for the program. To the extent we did not have money in the operating budget, we would be using reserves to fund the program. In the budget there was funding in the reserves for the traffic study of \$10,000.00. This year we funded it. Safety Chair, Sheri Steisel Weiss indicated that a notice was sent out to the community discussing the funding of the study/enforcement and the Board approved the money to fund the program. A motion was made and seconded to rename the program "Traffic Study Implementation" in the budget. The motion passed.

Year to date we spent \$2,676.00 on traffic study implementation. A lot of costs were one time costs this year, but we're raising revenue significantly through ad revenue on the luxline. We raised \$8,000.00 year to date from the LuxLine and that wasn't a part of the budget last year. In terms of balances, we have over \$32,000.00 in our checking account and about \$56k in the savings account.

5. Burman Berger, Treasurer budget presentation and vote and preliminary audit

There was a discussion of the current bylaws that allow the Board to make an expenditure in excess of any budgeted amount up to \$1k. For an expenditure from \$1k to \$2,500.00 in excess of any budgeted amount, the Board would need to post the proposal on the listserv and provide an opportunity for comment from the membership. Once comments are received, the Board may proceed with the expenditure up to \$2,500.00. Any expenditure above \$2,500.00 in excess of any budgeted amount, the Board is requirement to go back to the membership in a formal meeting. Because we expect revenue from the LuxLine, we are drawing advertising income as a result of the LuxLine. We also specify that the Board on its own initiative can reduce dues below \$25.00 but to increase them, we have to come back to the membership for a vote.

A motion to table to the budget for future discussion was made and seconded. There was a motion to call the question. There was a 2/3rds majority in favor of calling the question. The motion to table the budget for future discussion failed.

A motion to amend the budget to take out the transfer of reserves as an income item from the budget was made and seconded. A motion was made to call the question and the motion was approved by a majority of the votes.

A motion to approve the budget as amended was made and seconded. The budget as amended was approved by a vote of 68 to 38.

Base Level Audit: We are not a 501(c)(4) entity which means we do not have not-for-profit status with the IRS. Technically that means if we have an operating surplus, that is taxable income. So if we have interest on the income, that would be taxable income. At some point we need to address this issue. But not tonight. We need to make everyone aware of the fact that we are not a not-for-profit. So far, we haven't found a tax return or any other document indicating our tax status. We need to do something about this because we are running a very serious risk of losing our reserves and everything else. We are looking into alternatives to address this issue.

6. 8:45 p.m. Bylaws Discussion and Vote: Vice President Jerry Ostrov

Members of the Bylaws Committee: Abbe Milstein, President; Jerry Ostrov, Vice President; John O'Shea, Trustee.

Jerry discussed the very rapid transition of our community to an online-based system of communication within the neighborhood which is not accounted for in our current bylaws. The recommended bylaws were posted in three forms on the website in accordance with the bylaws and we distributed the bylaws on the listserv and through the LuxLine and requested comments. Jerry described the proposed substantive changes to the bylaws and he summarized each one prior to the vote on whether or not to approve the proposed bylaws changes. The following are a summary of the proposed changes distributed to the membership:

Email Communication – making email only communication sufficient; Dues – reduction of dues from \$40.00 per year to \$25.00 per year; Greensheet – to be delivered twice a year 10 days before the general meeting; Trustee Terms End 5/2018 – proposal to eliminate Trustee position from the Board; Board Meetings – Meetings may occur every other month between September and June; Small Expenditures Over Budget – Authorize the Board on its own to make expenditures up to \$1k beyond budgeted amounts via meeting, conference call or email. Unbudgeted expenditures between \$1001.00 and \$2,500.00 may be made in a similar manner after soliciting the views of the membership by email. Unbudgeted amounts of \$2,501.00 or more require the vote of the membership; Checks – authorize the vice president to sign checks; Indemnification – indemnification of officers, trustees and committee chairs on behalf of the association; Floor Nominations – when the nominations committee is advised 48 hours of a planned nomination from the floor, voting will not take place until the floor nomination is made, otherwise, ballots may be cast in advance. Committee Chairs Reporting – Chairs are responsible for reports, LuxLine articles and after consulting with the president, website updates.

It was noted in discussion that the Executive Committee proposal was not on the ballot. The proposal was not voted on.

There was a motion on the floor that was seconded to amend the dues provision to say "The Board can further reduce the dues so long as there are sufficient funds necessary to maintain the organization and its purpose." The membership voted to approve the amendment.

Jerry addressed two bylaws provisions suggested by community member John Burgett, posting of minutes and appointment of committee chairs. Another suggestion from a community member was made for online voting.

7. Vote on proposed bylaws and results for LCA Elected Officers

Note: The results of the election were posted on the listserv:

President: Abbe Milstein

Vice President: Sheri Steisel Weiss

Treasurer: Burman Berger

Recording Secretary: Carin Cooper

Corresponding Secretary: Edward Farber

Trustee (3 year term): Jerome Ostrov

All but two proposed bylaws changes passed. Neither the Trustee Term Provision nor the Dues Reduction proposal passed.

8. Meeting was adjourned.

IV. Agenda and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church time and date TBD

Trinity Lutheran Church

11200 Old Georgetown Road

Rockville, MD 20852

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. by Abbe Milstein

Minutes submitted by: Carin Cooper