

Cherrydale Citizens Association Meeting

November 15, 2017

CCA Officers: Jim Todd (President), Gillian Burgess (VP), Danielle Schefer (Secretary)

12 CCA citizens

Meeting Notes

CCA Membership Dues for 2018: Please contribute \$5 for family, \$1 for seniors. Slightly higher for businesses. Dues can be waived if unable to pay.

CCA Officer Nominations/Elections: November elections; a Treasurer is needed. Election results were:

- President – Jim Todd
- VP – Gillian Burgess
- Secretary – Danielle Schefer

Volunteer Jobs needed:

- Delivery of Sweet and Sour News
- Editor of Sweet and Sour News – it generates revenue that supports our fun events like 4th of July party
- Spaghetti Dinner lead (takes place in March)
- Santa visit lead
- 4th of July party lead
- Board of Directors (see next item)

CCA's Organization: Currently unincorporated and uncertain of what ramifications that could have. A law firm has volunteered to incorporate us (501(c)(4) organization), pay filing fees, and file taxes for us. We will need a Board of Directors; possibly past officers. There was a legal case when an unincorporated neighborhood association was sued because of a pool in the neighborhood. This would protect the members and officers in the CCA when we hold events. We also will be able to apply for a Taxpayer ID Number and then be able to take credit card payments online and in person for the Spaghetti Dinner, Cherrydale Swag, etc. We would need insurance. The Civic Association has asked the County to pay for this insurance or might be able to get us a group rate. If we decide we don't want to be a 501(c)(4), we can dissolve it easily. We selected a 501(c)(4) instead of a 501 (c)(3) so we can possibly engage in political activities – only in the case where we might need to stand up to our elected officials to resolve an issue we have.

- We voted unanimously to move forward to become a 501(c)(4). An additional vote will be needed to approve the documents once drafted.

CCA Meeting Schedule: Existing by-laws used to require monthly meetings. In 1998, these were amended for bi-monthly meetings with officers meeting in off-months. Obtaining a quorum (11 people) is difficult. Many civic associations meet less. Jim proposed a switch to 4 meetings per year (3rd Wednesday of Feb, May, Sept, Nov). Ad hoc meetings can always be called as needed. A vote was held; 11 voted yes and 1 abstained.

Upcoming Events:

- Santa's visit to CVFD: Dec 17. Bring new toys which Santa gives away to kids. Big kids make great volunteers too!
- Oak Grove Park: Playground Neighborhood Conservation project. One issue is that the bouncy ground got footsteps in it, so it'll have to be fixed. Project was expected to be completed by December. It will have a 2-5 playground and a 5-12 playground and a playground shelter and an area to manage the runoff (due to new State requirements and to avoid erosion). We are asking to remove the gravel above the steps that lead to 15th street. Thank you to Debbie Cook who spearheaded the project, focusing on the County, personally watering the trees. We leapfrogged ahead in the process due to her tenacity. One Cherrydaler made a difference! We may do a ribbon cutting to celebrate.
- CCA/CVFD Spaghetti Dinner: We need to find a date.

VDOT Toll Sign Mitigation: Sign is 13'x16'. VDOT admitted it could have been slightly smaller. VDOT could change or remove the signs in the future if the law changes. We will ask them to remove the lighting. They will paint the pole and the back of the sign matte black (from its current shiny steel) which is the same color as the street light posts. VDOT offered to put a Cherrydale sign on the back (of our own design). VDOT offered to do some landscaping – a Pin Oak and/or evergreen holly trees. The trees will require trimming to stay out of the traffic lanes. The brick crosswalk pavers will be removed and a RRFB (blinking yellow lights) will be installed with new zebra paint to make the crosswalk safer. We do not have a solution for what if people going westbound on Lee Hwy need to make a U turn. It's an awkward area and potentially unsafe. Please monitor it and let's keep talking about it.

New High School at the Ed Center: School Board has asked the County Board if they can use the Oak Grove Park for school purposes. We need to stay engaged in what happens there. School Board resolved to add 500-600 students there. County is about to buy the Buck property. Joint Facilities Advisory Committee is supposed to be looking at uses of the property but the School Board is not waiting. The 500-600 seats will be county wide. There will be a new high school at the Career Center. Then they are expecting to build another high school in 2-3 years. This will impact Cherrydale. We will play a role in this, looking at traffic and impact on our neighborhood. Go to Monday night School Board meetings and speak up.

County gives half price rides to all APS kids on ART buses using iRide cards. APS hired a full time transportation planner for the first time to help with all of this. Talk to our School and County Board members about this. Watch for changes – info on our website.

New Middle School Boundaries: Stratford Middle School (formerly H-B Woodlawn) will have a large addition and open in Fall 2019. H-B Woodlawn will move to Rosslyn. In the superintendent's plan, Cherrydale goes to Stratford and Immersion moves to Kenmore. Everyone across Lee Hwy (and possibly Old Lee) would be bussed due to the safety of crossing Lee Hwy or they will have to have a crossing guard. Stratford will have a new name. Watch for changes – info on our website.

Pedestrian Safety and Transportation Improvements: Five Points Intersection was ahead of schedule but is no longer. An exit-only driveway is being installed on Old Dominion for the new middle school. Street lights are in asphalt – unsure if they will be moved. County usually asks Dominion Electric/Verizon/Comcast to move the utility poles.

CCA Agenda for 2018:

- New Schools
- VDOT
- Buck property
- Relationship with the CVFD. Possibly have them present at the Feb meeting. Our Spaghetti Dinner benefits CVFD but they have financial needs.
- Snow Patrols – use list serve to communicate needs
- General Land Use Plan – YMCA/Trans/VFW/Cupid Cleaners properties bought up by 3 development companies working together to get re-zoning and re-development. YMCA would stay in some form. Jim attended some meetings. Developer's Plan being considered and Petition for traffic study is on our website. This is called Quincy Park North. Adding 500-600 residents. Height where Rocklands is would be 6 stories, grading down to neighborhood.

Other Items Discussed:

- County funding is tight. Metro is asking for funding that basically equates to \$0.01 increase on real estate tax.
- Dec 1st HOT lanes started with expanded times. Airport exception has been removed. In 2022, 66 will require HOV-3 or a very expensive toll (like \$20 to go from DC to 495). Traffic patterns will change when the tolls occur. Tolls will be variable based on traffic.
- Our long term plan is to re-connect Cherrydale to Lyon Village and Lee Heights via walking.
- Old Dominion Missing Link project – the missing median on Old Dominion.
- Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment is looking to get engaged with Civic Associations like us. They will present at our Feb meeting.