

## **Tollgate Association April Board Meeting**

**Date and Time:** April 2, 2011 at 9 am

**Location:** 118 Tollgate Way (Donaldson residence)

**Attending:** Jim Hogle, Bob Donaldson, Margaret Melhem, Marie Murray and Garry Sauner

1. The March 2011 meeting minutes were approved by the board without change.
2. Treasurer's Report: Bob Donaldson – Current assets are \$48,396 in the bank. Outstanding liabilities are \$21, 943 for a net worth of \$26,452. The largest liability is the landscape contract at \$20,970. The association has an adequate landscape budget.
3. Committee Reports:
  - Landscape – Marie Murray. A landscape committee meeting was held to discuss priorities for the coming year. In keeping with the commitment to do significant landscape work on at least one property each year, the committee discussed possible choices for 2011. Depending on the final decision on tree removal, #101 may be the yard selected. Several other areas were discussed for limited shrub replacement and pruning. The Committee also agreed to make improvement of the grassy areas within Tollgate a priority for this year. As a first step in this effort, Bob Donaldson took soil samples and submitted them for analysis. Once the soil test results are obtained, the committee will explore what can be done including whether to bring in a company that specializes in lawn health. In the meantime, Marie Murray wrote to Ramiro requesting specific information on the current protocol for grass treatment and an estimate of what portion of the current contract is allocated for grass care, aside from mowing. We are waiting for response to that letter. Marie also met with Ramiro two times about specific landscaping projects and they have been responsive to these requests. The Committee received only one new request, and that was from Jim Hogle concerning a holly bush in his front yard. Soon after the Hogle's request, Ramio's crew pruned the bush and no further action may be needed. In the next two weeks, Marie Murray will do hand pruning at 111 (Guyette residence) and 131 (Hundt residence).

- Tree – Bob Donaldson. Tom Allen came out and looked at trees. His report: two dead trees at 124 (Murray residence) and two pines that should come down - one at 127 (Casteuble residence) and one between 127 and 125 (Echemendia residence). Met with Dominion Power and agreed the trees need to come down. Dominion Power will remove limbs by the power lines and then The Greenery will take the rest of the trees down. A tree in the Mallon's yard has a hollowed out trunk and should come down. Tom Allen said if the tree fell down today it is our (homeowners) problem. If we point out the condition of the tree to the Mallons and the tree comes down causing property damage, then it is the Mallon's problem. Tom will send a letter on the condition of the tree which the association will send to the Mallons. Bob Donaldson also met with the new Falls Church arborist, Ben Thompson. Mr. Thompson indicated that Falls Church does not get involved with private home owners but suggested the association use their arborist. Bob will send a note to Tom Allen to remind him we need the letter. When we receive the letter from the arborist, we will send a copy to the Mallons, Falls Church City and our insurance company.

Magnolia Tree: Tom Allen indicated that it appears the tree is healing up. He thought if we want to keep it, it should survive and is not a safety hazard. We will do limited pruning over the car pad. We will prune the part that is brushing against 108 (Kirschner residence) and that will also balance the tree. Eric Kirschner said he is satisfied with that outcome. Bob Zawacki was also briefed.

Austrian Pines at 101: The three trees are in bad shape including the center tree which is practically dead. The three trees will be removed at a cost of \$1,900. Then the property will be re-landscaped. We won't be putting in as many trees to avoid over crowding. An American Holly was suggested by the city arborist. This tree is slow growing so it won't be a screen for some time and it is hard to find. Also need to consider the beech tree next to gazebo which will grow 2 or 3 times the current size. Symmetry with 100 is not an issue.

Bob told Ben Thompson that we took out a sweet gum without a permit. He agreed that the position was vacant and they were very backlogged once the position was filled. We have some trees that are not on the approved list and the arborist said these are guidelines and some exceptions can be made. Would like to put a cherry tree where the plum tree was taken out (101) but we will need an exception.

Soil sample results were received and will be sent to Tom Allen for review and advice. The Ph level = 6.4.

- Architecture – Garry Sauner. One pending request from 110 (Hundt residence) to do some work in the back yard. The committee is reviewing their request.
- Maintenance – no items. A couple of light bulbs need to be replaced. The up lights highlighting the crepe myrtles at the front entrance have not been coming on. Will need to check to the light bulbs and the wire.
- Social – Cindy Donaldson and Wynne Hogle are going to be the social committee until we get additional volunteers. There is a new save the date (May 22<sup>nd</sup>) for the spring social to combine the social and a goodbye party for the Casteubles who recently sold their home (127).

#### 4. Old Business:

- Rodents: Rodents appeared a few days ago outside 131 (Hogle residence). Jim filled in the hole. Have not found the second hole. Garry contacted Connors Pest Control and they will be out on Tuesday to take a look and decide what to do.
- Tollgate Sign: Bob met with Preston Sign in Falls Church. They will send an artist rendering for review and approval. They suggested a wood sign with letters that are sandblasted. Suggested two signs – one on side and one on front. We can choose whatever color we want for the lettering. We should have estimate for next meeting.

#### 5. New Business: no new business.

6. The next meeting will be on May 7, 2011 at 9:00 am at the Hogle's home (#131). The April board meeting concluded at 10:05 am.