

Tollgate Association May Board Meeting

Date and Time: May 7, 2011 at 9 am

Location: 131 Tollgate Way (Hogle residence)

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

1. The April 2011 meeting minutes were approved by the board without change.
2. Treasurer's Report: Bob Donaldson – Expenses for the month were \$4,330.35. The largest expenses were \$2,330 for Lawn Maintenance and \$1,500 for removal of the two white pines at 125 and 127. Current assets are \$44,065.92. Outstanding liabilities are \$21,688.25, which includes \$18,640 for the landscape contract and \$2,750 for the pruning contract. Our net worth is 22,377.67. Compared to budget, we are on track. We paid the pest control contract last year so we are covered for the entire year. The \$1,000 in the budget for pest control will likely be applied to next year's contract.
3. Committee Reports:
 - Landscape – Marie Murray.

Priority Property. The Landscape committee held a meeting in April. Each year the committee selects one property to receive significant landscape work. This year the committee selected 101. The committee, with the agreement of the homeowner (Michael Vlahos), decided to remove the deteriorating pine trees in the front of 101. New shrubs and trees will be planted to replace the trees that are being removed.

Grass. Another concern for the Landscape Committee is the general condition of the grass. Soil samples indicate that the soil condition is better than we expected. However, we have bald patches and may need to bring in topsoil. The best time to do that would be in the fall. We have been working with Ramiro to ensure that work such as aeration, fertilization, and weed control are being done according to the contract. Bob Donaldson will continue to work with Ramiro. We plan to contact another company that does lawn treatment but suspect that it will be beyond our budget. However, if we did contract with a lawn treatment firm, the funds would come out of landscape budget.

One homeowner request - Chuck Conner (133) requested that we replace azaleas that did not survive. Chuck will contribute to the cost.

Merrifield: We have a call into Merrifield to look at the new holly in front of the Rivkin home (100) and the new bushes at the Guyette's (111). All are under warranty.

Mallon tree: After receiving our letter about the safety of the tree with the hollowed out truck, the Mallon's moved quickly to have the tree removed.

- Tree Report – Bob Donaldson. After looking at tree costs, including paid and anticipated costs of \$7,442, the tree budget of \$8,100 should be sufficient. However, we may have additional costs for fall pruning.
- Architecture Committee – Garry Sauner. No new requests.
- Maintenance – Garry Sauner – The much needed replacement of the sunken sidewalk panels in front of 100 Tollgate Way is being done. We hope that when the work is finished that it has the proper slope to drain rain water into the street. Jim Hogle, on behalf of the Tollgate community, signed a thank you letter to the Falls Church Operations Division Director.

Uplighting outside the gazebo: Two lights that shine up onto the outside of the gazebo are not working. At least one of the lights has been damaged and needs to be replaced. It could be the broken light caused the other light to stop working. We will replace the lights after a decision is made regarding new Tollgate signage at the front entrance.

- Social – The Spring Social will be held on May 22 at the Donaldson's (118). Though Cindy Donaldson has resigned from the committee, she is helping out with this event. We still need to find a couple of replacements to help Wynne Hogle.

4. Old Business:

- Parking. We had a discussion about people parking on the street (especially on the curve) rather than using the visitor spots. The next Tollgate Fare will review the available spaces in the neighborhood and offer a recommendation to use the visitor spots when available instead of parking on the street. We discussed getting visitor parking signs or stenciling "visitor" on the curb. We determined we should get feedback from the community on stenciling before going ahead with stenciling.

- Rodents: Haven't seen any new pests though there is one other spot we were going to show the exterminator.
- Tollgate Sign: Bob got a reasonable quote for signs from an Internet sign company. Two options are: sand blasted background and raised letters or letters engraved into the wood. We discussed hanging the signs from the gazebo versus putting signs on posts in the ground at the entrance. The material options include cedar wood or synthetic material. (Note: after walking down to the gazebo, the board determined that we should put the signs on posts. However, before proceeding, we will seek feedback from the community).

5. New Business: no new business.

6. The next meeting will be on June 4, 2011 at 9:00 am at the Knittig's (115). The May board meeting concluded at 10:15 am.