

Minutes of the Tollgate Association Board Meeting

Saturday, August 7, 2004

Attending:

Tom Smolinski, Ella Lyons, Garry Sauner, Chuck Conner, Bill Arthur, Kathy Doherty

Location:

Home of Ella Lyons

Meeting time:

Meeting began 9:07. Note: There was no meeting in July.

Treasurer's Report:

The association has a net worth of \$16,035.78. Recent expenses were \$1,885.00 for gutter cleaning and \$200.90 for tree planting.

Landscape Committee report:

Chairman Kathy Doherty said she had an estimate of \$7844 from Merrifield Garden Center for repairs to the ground behind units 114, 112, 110, 108 and 106. Merrifield proposes to re-grade the area, put in a ton of rock, and install flagstone so residents can walk on the ground and wheel trash bins in and out. The idea is to slow the flow of water into the storm drain between 106 and 108, causing much of it to perk into the ground before it gets to the drain.

Another idea is to terrace the area ourselves. Kathy said the Merrifield man said that wouldn't work because it wouldn't slow the flow to the drain, which gets overwhelmed.

The board agreed with President Tom Smolinski, who said something must be done about this problem soon or it could eventually threaten the brick walls behind the houses. The problem is devising the right solution and cost. The board asked Kathy Doherty to solicit more bids and ideas and report back to the board as soon as possible. If necessary the board will call a special meeting when more bids are in.

Several residents have volunteered their labor to mitigate cost. Kathy will also explore that possibility with potential contractors.

Kathy also reported estimates from Merrifield for smoothing out the ground between units 125 and 127 and units 117 and 121. Cost for both is about \$2000. The board

agreed to defer those projects for now.

Tree Committee:

Chairman Bob Donaldson reported the planting of four Foster Hollies behind unit 118. The homeowner paid for two and the association paid for two.

Social Committee:

Chairman Ella Lyons said the plan is to hold the fall picnic, set for Sept. 26, on the lawns at 116 and 118 and use some of the cul-de-sac. Ella will work out a rain plan, perhaps setting the primary picnic date for Saturday, Sept. 25, with the rain date the next day. There may be other alternatives.

Architecture Committee:

No report.

Unfinished Business:

Parking pads: Work is under way to reseal the parking pads. The contractor had planned to do all driveways at once but dropped that plan when he saw how many cars would have to be parked on the street. Now, he is doing it piecemeal, arranging with owners to have their cars off the pads. Cars must stay off the pads for at least two days after the work is done.

Gutters: Cleaning has been done. Tom Smolinski said he and others were satisfied with the quality of the work. The board agreed to schedule the same company, Winston, for twice-a-year cleanings.

Brick work: King's Masonry has fallen well behind schedule, but assures Tom Smolinski they haven't forgotten us and should get to the neighborhood by mid-September.

Dead End sign: The city of Falls Church has agreed to install a sign saying ``Dead End'' at the entrance to deter cut-through drivers. Bill Arthur suggested that the sign on the East side of the entrance be placed closer to the Route 7 than the current sign. Eastbound drivers may be pretty well committed to turning before they see the current sign, he said. Tom Smolinski said he would work with the city installers when they come.

New Business:

Lamppost: The lamppost at 109 needs replacing. Tom

Smolinski said the association has a replacement post, and he and Bob Donaldson would install it, perhaps with a new concrete base to prevent rotting at the bottom.

Rodents: Some residents have complained about seeing rats in the neighborhood. The board agreed that Ella Lyons will put a notice in the newsletter that Tom Smolinski is putting poison at appropriate places to control the rodents.

Next meeting:

The board meets next on September 11 at Tom Smolinski's house.