

## GWCA Board Meeting – Friday, September 1, 2017

Larry opened the meeting at 2:10. Please note action items, which are highlighted in yellow.

### Attendees

Larry  
Monica  
Parry  
Paula

### Agenda:

- Larry went over the agenda for the next membership meeting. Mark Sickles will be there to speak to the group. Larry suggested adding the topic of Air BnB in Fairfax County (it is currently not permitted.) **The board agreed Larry will add Air BnB as an agenda item.**
- Little Free Library: Larry has volunteered to put one in his yard, and we are searching for another location, preferably on the other side of Telegraph Road. (*Update since Friday: Monica volunteered to place one on her property, and Chris can install it.*) The group discussed logistics. Paula said that they can be ordered in pieces to be built, or pre-assembled. The board agreed on the latter approach. **Larry will order it/them.** Paula and Monica both said they have books to donate. It will have two shelves: one for adults and one for children.
- Membership database cleanup: Larry wants to cross check address and members, and to send e-mail to unpaid members to ask them to renew their membership if they want to remain in membership database. **Larry will do this.** Only dues-paying members receive the newsletter.
- GWCA Meeting signs: Larry sent letters to all residents who live at suitable locations for placing signs (close to intersections with stop signs within the GWCA boundaries), asking their permission to place signs on/near their property. The board discussed the technique of placing the sign: a hole for the sign post must be made with a stake. Also maintaining the good condition of the new signs is important. This requires careful transport; i.e., protecting the signs from being scratched. We will need volunteers to take this on.
- Discussion regarding the wooden split rail fence at Telegraph and Florence: this is the section on the southeast-ish corner, on the left as you turn off Florence onto Telegraph. The land is county-owned. Marion Moon paid for the fence when she had the same installed across Florence on her property. She has shouldered the cost of maintaining it until now, and has asked if GWCA can take over that expense. The board agreed to do so, and will ask for neighborhood volunteers to help with installation of replacement sections as needed. There are still a few spare fencing pieces to use when needed.
- Rescheduled November membership meeting: because the normal day would be the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, the board agreed last May to hold the membership meeting on **October 24.** **Larry will ask Jeff McKay to come.** If he's not available, Larry will invite the crime prevention officers for Franconia and Mt. Vernon. He will ask them if they both want to attend or if they prefer just one attend on behalf of both.
- Nextdoor discussion: the board discussed the issue of posting businesses/services according to Nextdoor rules. Some details discussed:

- Monica stated that her concern is that because of the growing frustration among Nextdoor users with inconsistent observance of the Nextdoor rules, people may stop using it.
- Nextdoor Leads differ significantly in their approaches to rules: they range from zero tolerance to absolute tolerance of not following the rules for posting. Many users of the site feel resentful about this inconsistency.
- Given that finding where services have been posted requires a more than rudimentary understanding of the App, many users do not see where others have posted their services (e.g. babysitting; yard work, etc.). This makes Nextdoor less useful for people wanting to advertise or find services.
- The question was asked whether any neighborhoods have ever lost privileges because of not enforcing rules for posting. The answer was no.
- Monica suggested that the all-enforcement policy thus far comes across as too negative, and that perhaps the board could reach out in an equally positive way as well. She requested that efforts be made to help residents understand how to use Nextdoor best. **Larry agreed to post helpful hints** on using Nextdoor in addition to the reminders of the posting rules. **He will also open the floor at membership meetings to questions about using Nextdoor**, and perhaps to have specific how-to demonstrations.
- Name tags for board members: Paula suggested that board members have professionally made name tags, and the board agreed. **Paula will order them.** Each will have the board member's name and title. This includes the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, president emeritus, hospitality coordinator, and neighborhood liaison.
- Discussion on car wash at Manchester Lakes. Larry shared a letter from concerned residents of the area in question. The board agreed that the letter contained several questionable assertions, including (but not limited to) a concern that the car wash would bring in child predators; it would put harmful chemicals into the air; and make traffic dangerous in the neighborhood. Larry stated that he did not see any concerns to validate a "no" vote, and that he plans to vote in favor of the project.

Larry adjourned the meeting at 3:45 pm.