

**Sagamore Hills Civic Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Meeting held at Oak Grove UMC
March 8, 2022 – 7:30 pm**

Board Members Present: *Don McChesney, Mike Miller, James Rissler, Keith Petroni, Vickie Moreland, Bonnie Walker, Eddy Rhinehart, Nancy Love, Don Broussard, Sandra Reeder, Margaret Cone, Lillianette Cook*

Board Members Absent: Lynsey Barron, Jay Leslie

Arrived Late: Eddy Rhinehart, Vickie Moreland, Bonnie Walker, Nancy Love

Guests: none

Call to order

Meeting called to order by President D. McChesney at 7:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by J. Rissler.

Quorum: 8/14 board members

D. McChesney invited us to introduce ourselves as we meet in person for the first time in a long time.

Approval of February Minutes

Feb. 8 meeting minutes affirmed unanimously after language re GDOT and Turtle Creek slightly amended.

Motion to affirm the minutes with amendments made by S. Reeder and seconded by K. Petroni.

Treasurer's Report - K. Petroni

Keith shared the report with us by email.

Keith will provide a comparison in April of numbers through March 31, 2022 vs March 31, 2021

- E. Rhinehart - can we make sure that the amount in the fund from Cliff Valley School is known?
 - K. Petroni - they're all combined; I'll look through old records to see if we can find a way to know that
 - S. Reeder - board maintains complete control over that money, and we can spend it otherwise than on traffic
 - D. McChesney - this board voted last April to combine the money into one fund
 - K. Petroni - at a quick glance, there is about \$30,000 left from CVS money
- K. Petroni - when does financial review happen?
 - V. Moreland - early next year for prior year (with E. Rhinehart and J. Leslie)

Old Business:

- Lighting of Columns:

- E. Rhinehart - Barb Ribner looked into this several years ago, then N. Love more recently
 - N. Love - old gas lines were buried, so can't use; electricity would be >\$1400/column to equip
- E. Rhinehart contacted a friend who works in landscape lighting who came and looked at our columns - solar would work for sunny columns, but maybe not for all
 - the friend will do a test at his business in a shady area to see if solar could be viable
 - solar panel 18x24 inches, 2 lights / column
 - friend said electric would be best, wondered about running from homeowners
 - if have to tunnel underground, \$1600 per place
- S. Reeder - 10 columns x \$1400 to install electricity = \$14,000 - maybe worthwhile?
 - D. McChesney - who was the \$1400 quote from?
 - N. Love - need to look - 3 years ago
- **K. Petroni - move to authorize up to \$5000 for N. Love and E. Rhinehart to install solar lights for the column at Sagamore Hills Drive or another suitable location**
 - **L. Cook seconds**
- E. Rhinehart - do we want to light all columns in the same way?
- **motion passes: 8 in favor, 3 against**
- Portable Speed Signs
 - D. McChesney: we've been surveying to try to find two people on Alderbrook willing to have solar paneled speed signs
 - K. Petroni - Steven Seel 1701 Alderbrook - on "keep right" sign at island?
 - D. Broussard: has form to send in the permitting application
 - K. Petroni has the other sign from the Beveridges, which requires an extension cord to recharge (battery is not removable)
 - **D. McChesney - let's submit permit applications for 1701 Alderbrook and the existing speed limit sign on Alderbrook near Timberland (1781 Timberland)**
 - V. Moreland - not sure that sign on Black Fox will work to mount a sign
 - S. Reeder - we can buy a sign that is mounted
 - D. Broussard will fill out permits and contact residents to let them know
 - K. Petroni - can purchase one complete set, and a solar panel for the one we currently have - solar panel was \$1000 when purchased previously
 - B. Walker - do we need a signed commitment from homeowners?
 - E. Rhinehart - no; signs are in right of ways
- Turtle Creek Bridge
 - see land use report below
 - D. McChesney - reiterates that Jeff Rader says it is Dekalb County's issue and he is working on it
- SHCA website

- S. Reeder sent an email requesting feedback about the current website
 - S. Reeder will bring a report based on our feedback next month
- D. McChesney went to the website today and wasn't recognized as a member
 - S. Reeder - the membership app will be fixed this summer after memberships have all been processed
 - D. McChesney - thank you to Sandra for all her work on this
 - S. Reeder - FixRunner is very responsive - "I'm in heaven"
- Security
 - see community relations report below
 - D. Broussard - should we inform the community of incidents like the "shooter case?"
 - E. Rhinehart - we can't easily communicate to the neighborhood
 - S. Reeder - we will be able to use the new membership app to email members
 - M. Miller - do we have a Sagamore Hills Hotline?
 - S. Reeder - yes, it's now a google group (sagamorehillshotline@googlegroups.com); we can invite people again to join it
 - M. Cone - we need to continue to clarify in the Signal that you need to call 911 for incidents
 - N. Love - you can also look up Dekalb County email addresses for our officers and email them there
 - D. McChesney - we could also list non-emergency number for Dekalb County
 - N. Love - security committee will meet to discuss some of this

Land Use Report - V. Moreland

See below for full report.

- L. Cook - Beautification Committee has noticed gaps in flowers and are working to fill them in.

Communications / Administration Report - E. Rhinehart

See below for full report.

Community Relations Report - N. Love

See below for full report.

New Business

- S. Reeder - invites us to her home at 6:30 for pizza before the May 10 meeting
- E. Rhinehart - Nominations Committee met last month and came up with several potential names - a combination of people approached last year and new people - the committee will meet this month and have a nomination by our next meeting
 - Kathryn Rotolo
 - Lori Surmay
 - Angelique or Peter Manzi
 - John McCauley

- D. Broussard will suggest another name to Eddy
- D. McChesney - re Membership Cultivation, M. Miller found a Vista Print option for postcard mailings
 - M. Miller shared this with J. Rissler
 - J. Rissler will look at that vs. mailing letters as has been done in the past, and ask for authorization of additional funds if necessary at the April 12 meeting
- V. Moreland - doesn't like deadline for reports, would be interested in report about officers meetings as well
- N. Love - Jeff Rader is not running for re-election

April Meeting

April 12 at 7:30 at Oak Grove UMC

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm by D. McChesney

LAND USE REPORT

submitted by Vickie Moreland

Beautification

Fresh pine straw has been spread for each of the entrances and shrubs have been trimmed.

Code Enforcement

Below emailed to committee for review/further comment:

“Jay Leslie circulated communication from the County regarding Code Compliance vs. Code Enforcement. Lynsey Barron inspected and reported back via email to the Board on concerns regarding acceptable home/yard conditions at the corner of Clairmont and Black Fox.”

Zoning

Clairmont Road – GDOT

No updates: Prior to April meeting, Vickie Moreland will reach out to GDOT Project Manager and copy Commissioner Rader’s staff member, Eric Myers. Information sought will be:

- Are any of the requested design changes related to SHCA’s concerns (tree canopy, sidewalks along east side of Clairmont, roundabout, deceleration lanes for right hand turns)?
- How will GDOT advertise Public Meetings?
- Confirmation that both projects will be scheduled simultaneously.

Speed feedback signs

In December and in January, Don Broussard requested information from GDOT and from DeKalb Transportation as to who placed the speed feedback signs on Clairmont Road near Pine Forest, After several weeks, replies were obtained in which neither agency could say who placed the signs or whether they were legal. Plans are being made to reinstall SHCA’s portable device at a new location in our neighborhood. We are seeking input from Board, members and neighbors for locations of approved signs. No response was received from an email sent to Catherine Schwenkler near Black Fox/Alderbrook. Don B. has requested permit forms from DeKalb County Transportation regarding permitting for the two signs authorized for purchase in January. Have the signs been ordered? Zoning committee has not been informed.

Turtle Creek Pedestrian Bridge

At Commissioner Rader's event at Frazier-Rowe Park, Nancy Love, Don McChesney and Vickie Moreland had the opportunity to question the Commissioner about the lack of progress. The Commissioner is pushing the County Attorney to honor the existing easement so a repair project can move forward. Commissioner Rader reiterated that the project was in County's hands. Dr. Lou Martin, one of the owners of the path property who supports its reopening reported that a meeting was held last week between three attorneys representing the Grosses, the "open the path" group, and DeKalb County. No word on the results. Sagamore Hills Civic Association, Inc. was not invited and did not participate in this meeting.

LaVista Road Sidewalks

Another project mentioned at Commissioner Rader's event was completing/connecting sidewalks on LaVista with drainage funds.

COMMUNICATIONS/ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Eddy Rhinehart

The Signal

The March-April Signal went to the publisher March 2, so Sandra has it for posting on the website, and it should land in our mailboxes next week. Ready to receive articles for May-June Signal now through April 12.

By-Laws

No progress on the By-Law/Policy Committee. Committee will establish a date and hold a Zoom meeting prior to next month's meeting.

Website

Finally transferred completely and domain name no longer with Brad. FixRunner sent us at the end of February maintenance ticket listing the work done on our site and routine maintenance. We have submitted a work ticket that requests the postie plugin be removed, a downloadable copy of the latest By-Laws be added, and requested advice on a membership management app to replace the Registration app we are currently using. This membership app is unreliable and often will not allow members to log-in to pay dues. Further, the current app reports different items as it interfaces with PayPay adding some people and not others. The Directory created by the Registration app is unsearchable and unstable. Replacing this app is my primary goal for the summer.

A Neighborhood directory has been placed under Member Information and is updated and in agreement with the DeKalb tax records. Arrangement is by street and street number. Members are bolded.

The new Signal has been downloaded to the site and all information is updated

I would really like anyone interested in the site to help me find answers to the following questions:

Web Questions for Board

1. What do you want to see on the website that is missing?
2. How many years of Signals do we accumulate on the site? They take lots of space We are charged by the amount of space needed to host our site.
3. Would we want to maintain historical files (minutes, finances, etc.) on the site protected by Board membership rights? Or, stick with dropbox or move to google docs.
4. What do you think about the pictures of homes and gardens on the home page?
5. Are the log-ins areas for new and returning members to pay dues confusing?
6. Is there anything you like? Anything that really bugs you?

Nominations Committee Committee is still in the process of verifying candidates for replacement for open Board seat; and will work to have a nominee by next meeting.

Membership Comparison

Membership stands at 156 compared with 174 at this time last year

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2022	102	156						Pre-paid	1	4	41	59
2021	105	174	222	280	303	320	328	334	337			32
2020	105	131	182	273	298	309	312	316	322	326	326	326
2019	84	113	172	226	262	267	275	281	281	282	282	282
2018	130	206	262	238	279	320	330	338	338	338	338	338
2017	146	189	300	329	344	348	354	357	357	359	359	359
2016	103	180	335	351	367	369	376	378	378	382	382	382
2015	149	189	310	329	361	367	367	375	378	378	378	378
2014	140	257	318	378	378	385	385	394	394	394	394	394

COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT, Submitted by Nancy Love

MEMBERSHIP CULTIVATION -James Rissler

Currently we have 157 members through the end of February as compared to 174 at the end of February last year. I sent out another email on Friday, March 4 to nonmember email addresses reminding them to look for the Signal and to join or renew their membership. I'll wait for data through the end of March and in early April send letters to residents who haven't joined.

NEW NEIGHBORS -Margaret Cone

New Neighbors now has four welcomers, Margaret Cone, Helen Frederick, Lillianette Cook and Carol Uhl.

Our biggest challenge is identifying new residents; we get information from realtors, we watch for folks moving in, and we get reports of new families through tips from observant neighbors. Some changes of ownership do not involve realtors, and sometimes sales are canceled. So we may not learn of new arrivals. If you have or know of a new resident; you can notify Margaret Cone (by e-mail, please) at margaret8000@earthlink.net. We will happily add them to our list for visiting.

We will hold a planning meeting during March.

SECURITY - Nancy Love

"The Shooter case" is still open. It is labeled "Aggravated Assault with property damage". There was no injury, and no one is currently in custody.

Patrols continue. We anticipate interviewing another off-duty officer for back up so needed.

We have asked as policy that each officer occasionally include shifts between Midnight and 6 am. This is happening.

EVENTS/SOCIAL - Nancy Love (Melissa P)

We propose a BBQ on Tuesday, May 10, before our regular Board meeting to strengthen Board relationships. Sandra has kindly offered her home. This of course will need a vote.

SCHOOLS - no report