

MONTPELIER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Deerfield Run Recreation Center
February 14, 2023

Trustees in Attendance: Felipe Arzayus, Sean Beaver, Bob Derrick, Lillian Fazio, Michael Flowe, Jack Keating, Cindy Merrow and Sterling Spangler

Trustees Absent with cause: Richard Mason

Community Members Present: Mary Derrick and Michelle Gimbert

President Bob Derrick called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. There was a quorum to conduct business.

Secretary's Report: Trustee Merrow

- The minutes of the January 10, 2023, Board meeting were reviewed. Trustee Beaver made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Trustee Merrow seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Trustee Fazio – Chairperson

- Monthly financial statements have been sent out to the Trustees.
- M&J Landscaping has sent a bill for \$4980 which was debited to 2022 and has been paid.
- \$50,000 has been transferred to Reserve Fund from annual operating funds. This brings the Reserve Fund up to \$287,135.
- The Administrative Assistant, Michelle Gimbert, has sent out assessment notices for 2023.
- As of 2/8, 119 assessments have been paid.

Tennis Committee: Trustee Fazio - Chairperson

- No report.

ACC Committee: Trustee Flowe – Chairperson

- In the February meeting the committee received 5 new complaints, closed 4 items, 5 are being monitored, 2 new application requests, and 2 notifications.
- A resident attended the ACC meeting and expressed her concerns about the general state the neighborhood. She seemed to be lamenting the days when owners took pride in where homes and were self-motivated to keep their yards in order. She was asked to join the committee or at least bring forth any specific complaints she might have to the committee. The committee shared how the complaints process works and what constraints and limitations they must work within.
- We will include in the Welcoming packets for all new residents the “Did you know...” page that is in every Newsletter, that explains some of the frequently forgotten violations.

Communications Committee: Trustee Beaver – Chairperson

- The committee is looking at options for enhanced communications like an email 'listserv' for only the Montpelier community that members elect to join. Discussion included the pro's and con's of the Nextdoor app and what the committee might bring to the Board for future discussion.
- The committee renewed the Montpelieronline.org website for 2 more years and 1 more for the ACCC website.

Governing Documents Committee: Trustee Beaver – Chairperson

- The committee is finalizing the list of what changes they might recommend to the Board.
- A President’s letter will go in a future newsletter to introduce the need for the changes and the community voting process the Board plans to follow.

Facilities Committee: Trustees Keating - Chairperson

- The pool bathrooms are going to be upgraded with off-white quartz counter tops, sinks, faucets and soap dispensers (these items and labor will be donated).
- Checking on the LED lights for the bathhouse that were ordered, they should be in soon.
- Brad Gimbert is waiting on quotes for new swings, Trustee Keating can also check with one of his vendors.

Pool Committee: Mary Derrick – Chairperson

- Pictures and quotes were provided to the Board for a new slide. After some lengthy discussion, Trustee Merrow made a motion to buy a new slide, the ½ tube with a staircase and have Lighthouse install it. Trustee Keating seconded the motion. 4 votes were for it and 3 were against it. The motion passed.
- The cost of replacement awnings for the Food Pavilion and the ‘VIP Lounge’ area are being researched. The Food Pavilion one is likely to cost approximately \$15,000. An update will be provided at a later meeting.

Social Committee: Lisa Smith - Chairperson – absent

- Easter is the next event.

Swim Team Committee: Chairperson – Andy Reeves – absent.

- Jack Keating reiterated that the Board has been asking for the Swim Team financial report for a while and is concerned about the lack of responsiveness.

Security Committee: Trustee Mason - Chairperson

Crimes in the Community

- Montpelier experienced two crimes since our last meeting on January 10th. A car was stolen in mid-February from Gramercy Lane and a catalytic converter was stolen from a Honda CRV parked on Golden Pass on January 21st. Parking your car in the garage or on a well-lit driveway will help in preventing these types of crimes. Other near by neighborhoods are experiencing more of these types of crimes.

Communications:

- MCA Security Committee is working on a communications system for the community that would be for all Montpelier residents. It is being requested that the Board discuss these 3 options.
 - Have the Montpelier Nextdoor group email fixed so all who are registered can get the messages.
 - Set up a Montpelier group email that all approved members can request to participate.
 - Hire an outside company to set up and maintain an approved group of members.

Report of P.G. County Police, Division 6, Beltsville, MD:

- Beltsville Police Station has improved their communications with the Montpelier Security Committee. Cpl. Fraser, COPS Officer, contacts Trustee Mason regularly with police matters. He is in favor of frequent MCA Security Committee emails to the community. Cpl. Fraser knows that Trustee Mason’s motto is “Mason is a communicator, not a policeman”. The Police Commander, and COPS Unit appreciate the communications from the Security Committee and having the lowest crimes statistics in Division 6. Cpl. Fraser plans to attend our March 14th Board Meeting.

Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), Beltsville, MD:

- Our membership has continuous communications about all police and crime related experiences. This way, all neighborhoods are aware of negative happenings and can prepare to stop this from happening in our neighborhood.

Report of Council Member Tom Dernoga's Office, P.G. County District 1:

- Jerri Jones, Constituent Services, and Michelle Garcia, Chief of Staff, are very excited about the next 4 years with Councilman Dernoga. Councilman Dernoga and Ms. Garcia are working on a new agenda that will be announced in the near future.
- Please advise Trustee Mason if you want Councilman Dernoga to explore a recommendation.

Traffic Committee: Trustee Arzayus – Chairperson

- Several 311 tickets were open about the Claxton/Montpelier Drive water pooling and the problems on Boxford Court for WSSC.

Welcoming Committee – Christina Kposowa – absent.

- No Report.

Old Business:

- The data collection for the engineering analysis for the reserve fund is still under way.

New Business:

- Continued research on options for using the Montpelier logo of the gas lantern on shirts, towels, etc.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Deerfield Run Community Center. Trustee Beaver made a motion to adjourn at 8:44 PM and was seconded by Trustee Merrow. The motion passed unanimously.