

# STRATHMORE-BEL PRE CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

April 27, 2021

PLACE: Zoom Meeting

ATTENDEES: if we do not hear by the due date/

Nancy Bechtol	(President)	Bill Hammond	(Vice President)
John Bogasky	(Treasurer)	Linda Bea	(Secretary)
Elliot Chabot	(Board)	Lilla Hammond	(Board)
Chris Swan	(Board)	Rita Vaught	(Board)

## COMMUNITY PARKING ISSUE

Much of the meeting was a call with community members (27 attendees) to discuss the parking issues on some of our neighborhood streets. Excessive parking by non-community members on Blue Spruce and Bluff Point is causing an issue for the residents of those streets. The vehicles are mostly white vans, which block the driveways and cause unsafe conditions at corners. This also creates a noise situation early in the morning and late in the evening as the vans arrive and leave. Additionally, trash is being left behind by the van owners.

Alison Smith of Blue Spruce petitioned residents on Blue Spruce for their support for residential parking permits for the street. She sent the results on the SBPCA Board, and they were forwarded to the County. Momentum was lost as offices closed for COVID-19, so no further action was taken at that time.

The request was subsequently resent to the DOT, where the case was assigned to an inspector. The petition will be reviewed and investigated, and we were told we should expect an answer by May 3, 2021. We have not received any information to date, and Nancy will follow up with them if we do not receive a response by the due date.

Rules and regulations of permitting process usually address parking during the day and parking on streets near metro stations. Our problem is the opposite. Our problem is with overnight parking.

The group spent some time brainstorming possible solutions:

Can the overflow vehicles use the parking lot of the Church on the corner of Hewitt and Georgia Avenues? The parking lot is part of the Matthew Henson Greenway

What about the Bel Pre school parking lot? (Overflow cars from the townhouses on Beaverwood use Strathmore ES parking lot overnight).

Should we participate in these discussions or let the apartment and condo management lead?

We will get together again after the County responds to our request. This portion of the call adjourned at 8:30 pm.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Minutes

The minutes for the March meeting were accepted as prepared.

## NEW BUSINESS

### The Bugle

The articles for the Spring Bugle are due May 1 so we can get the issue to the printer by Memorial Day.

### Yard Sale

We will schedule the yard sale for September 25, with a rain date of September 26. Chris will request the use of the parking lot on those dates.

### July 4<sup>th</sup>

We discussed ways to get volunteers to help with the activities. Lilla will send an email to the community members who attended to call for the parking issues. The Boy Scouts is another possibility.

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We will definitely have the car parade this year. If we can get additional volunteers, we may have the field games and entertainment.

**Photo Contest**

Chris suggested we sponsor another photo contest this year with prizes. Participants should submit their photos by October and the winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

**Memorial Dedication**

We discussed when to schedule the memorial for Maury Potosky. His wife, Charlotte, is moving in July, and we would like to have it before she moves.

We will hold a virtual town hall at 7:30 pm on April 27, 2021, to discuss the parking issues on Hewitt Avenue, Bluff Point, Blue Spruce and Beaverwood.

It seems there are numerous vehicles parking on our neighborhood streets, causing disturbances and possible safety issues. The problem was identified last year, and the Board sent a request for a hearing to the Montgomery County Traffic Operations. They received our request but did not respond. We did not pursue the matter at that time.

Our next step is to see if we qualify for a public hearing. To that end, Nancy will contact the MCDOT and ask if they will attend our virtual meeting to talk about the permitting process. If there is interest on the part of the community, possibly some residents will step up to lead the initiative. Alison Smith, one of our residents in that area, spearheaded the initial request last year and circulated a petition for signatures.

**Library**

There will be a virtual meeting on March 24 to demonstrate applications used by the Library to reserve and read books. The call will include how to use Overdrive and Libby and some other applications. Information to register for the virtual meeting will be on the listserv. Once you register, a link will be sent to you.

**Next Meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next meeting will be held on May 25, 2021.

lkb