

SEA Board Meeting Minutes January 22, 2024

Participants:

Alyson Emanuel
Katie Coss
Sue Prathi
Paul MacDougal
Jim Brennan

Introductions and Board business:

Each attendee introduced themselves. After discussion, it was agreed the Board would have 4 in person meetings with a Zoom call in between. It was suggested we investigate either:

1. having the Annual meeting only via Zoom
2. having the Annual Meeting via Zoom and in person (so both formats at the same time)
This may help to increase participation.

Directory:

Paul noted emails were sent to non-responders concerning responding to the directory information then a letter was sent via mail to the 101 households that had not responded. **We don't have valid emails for a good number of this 101 group.** Paul also said it was maybe a cross section of old and new residents who haven't responded. Paul has knocked on doors in the past and Alyson offered to help if we want to do that again. Another issue is we only have 2 area directors out of the 5 areas so having the area directors help isn't an option. When Paul is ready to pull the trigger, he will just go with what we have. Paul is shooting to have the directory out by the end of February.

Dues:

There was discussion as to when to send out dues invoices. Last year, we sent dues invoices via Quickbooks. There was a recommendation to discontinue Quickbooks due to high fees (\$785 in 2023), and an accounting problem with regard to residents who choose not to pay dues. Sue recommended we use spreadsheets which she characterized as flexible, widely used and meets our limited needs. **The Board voted to discontinue Quickbooks and continue the use of spreadsheets to track SEA finances.** When we send out the dues invoice, we will have to make sure everyone knows Quickbooks is no longer available. Alyson wants to get the invoices out by 2/5. Alyson asked to put up on the message board about the dues payments due by 2/29.

2024 goals:

We discussed some proposed goals which include (in no particular order)

- 1) dues

- 2) 2) resolving back taxes
- 3) securing a new website platform
- 4) continuing the anti-speeding committee,
- 5) improving the areas along the fence and erosion around the dam and
- 6) repairing the damaged monument wall. The most critical is the wall on the north side of the monument at the traffic signal entrance. There is a big tree with a big root that likely caused the damage. All contractors were asked to provide an estimate to tear down the 37 foot long section that is split in 3 places and rebuild, including replacing the footers. All the estimates were very high (\$12,000 - \$32,000). One of the contractors noted a patch option that would last 5-8 years. Alyson will send the patch person info to Jim who will contact the contractor. Patch estimate was \$3,500.

Budget:

- The 2024 budget is \$36,020, which is close to what we expect to collect in dues.
 - We expect lawn maintenance and landscaping will total \$22,000
 - Preparation of past due tax returns is budgeted at \$5000, but there is nothing budgeted for taxes owed/ penalties/ interest.
- We also have approximately an additional \$75,000 in cash, of which we reserve \$20,000 (another words, we need \$20,000 to pay non discretionary expenses in case no one pays dues).
- In summary, there is \$55,000 in cash on hand for capital expenditures / un-budgeted projects (remembering the irrigation project funds are part of this).
- The bylaws require neighborhood notification if we go over any budgeted amount by \$6000.

Events:

Alyson suggested we do an Easter egg hunt which is good for new residents. Karen Rice has offered to do a newcomers party for residents who have been in Springdale for 5 years or less. The Adult social was very successful. We decided to do the Adult Social again and Sue volunteered to be the point on that. The Fishing rodeo was also popular so we can consider doing that again but nothing specific was decided. Alyson would like by the February Zoom call to have every event we're going to do in 2024 and someone on the Board to be the lead.

Other items:

The **lake access located on Lakewood** has become an issue with Leesville High students parking in that area. We need to determine a fix to that problem but it has to be something that can be removed when necessary for valid parties(i.e., Duke Power and Bladerunner).

Residents have also voiced concerns about the **large shrubs (loropetulum)** blocking views of **oncoming traffic** up and down Leesville Road so we need to have them removed.

The **Big stick pick up** was a popular event but there are concerns that it's pricey and if we get more participation, we will have a budget problem. It was suggested we consider to again provide the service but asked participants to pay something like \$50 to help defray the cost. No decision was made.. Alyson did note all participants in the stick pick up were all dues paying members.

We will need to schedule the interim Zoom meeting in February and Alyson will send out note to see what date is good for everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.