Forest Oaks Homeowners’ Association

October 25, 2021

Minutes

The Forest Oaks Homeowners’ Association met via Zoom on October 25, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. Those present were Shelia Brown, Stephen Schexnayder, Kelley Connel, John & Emily Wood, Warren Stickrod, Dr. Gary & Joan Larson, Patrick & Laura Swezey, Nila Rouk and Elaine Weinmeister.

President Stephen Schexnayder opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from March 3, 2021. The minutes were available on the website. Dr. Gary Larson moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Shelia Brown gave the Treasurer’s report. She explained the lump sums for mowing and that 95 residents paid dues via Paypal and 60 by check. 155 homeowners paid dues, however several people make additional contributions. We were able to fully fund our budget. Although Paypal has increased their fee per dues payer, the service is worth it for payment convenience for homeowners.

Miles Hall was not available to give an Officer-at-Large report, however, Stephen Schexnayder noted that the Hafer Park vote passed. The increase in sales tax will allow the city to buy the land from the developer and expand Hafer Park.

Elaine Weinmeister gave the Landscaping Report. 2021 was an unusual year. After the devastating ice storm of Oct. 2020 and the below freezing temperatures in February, a lot of the work centered around clean-up and monitoring plants for survival. Several loads of tree branches were trimmed and taken to the transfer station by Elaine and Marc Weinmeister. The committee hired Cruz to take out the old mulch and weed the island. Three people planted spring plants on May 22, and Cruz spread 30 bags of mulch on May 28 and 29. The spring and fall planting costs are about equal to the costs of labor for the year. New shrubs have been purchased to replace the ones killed last year. Elaine thanked everyone who helped weed, clean up trash or lend a hand this year. Special thanks go to our loyal donor. The continued heat into September has made work at the entry difficult. Warren Stickrod suggested the committee hire Cruz to weed as needed next summer.

Warren Stickrod reported on the flagpole project. Warren is coordinating with Cruz to dig a trench for electrical wires to illumine the flagpole. The project will also add ground-level lights to increase the visibility of the Forest Oaks entry sign. He is getting bids for the work. Marc Weinmeister will help with this search.

Warren is also working on replacing two wooden streetlights on Running Branch. Warren will contact Mary Berryman to aid in this project. Funds have been approved for this expense.

Shelia mentioned that the Yard-of-the-Month winners were announced via email during the year and in the newsletter. The new chairpersons have done a very good job.

In New Business, Stephen Schexnayder proposed wrapping the lacebark elm with red, white and blue lighting beginning Memorial Day and continuing through July 4. We would need to buy the new LED strands of lights and hire the workmen. We estimate the cost to be $800 the first year. The following year, the cost should only be $400. Warren Stickrod moved that we wrap the tree next year. Dr. Gary Larson seconded and the motion was approved.

As mentioned in the newsletter, Stephen proposed that we hire a company to trim trees around our streetlights that have become obscured by tree branches. This is an effort to keep our streets safe as daylight hours wane. The city does not do this maintenance. Nila Rouk mentioned that the bright lights from existing streetlights stream into homes and are not desired. Discussion ensued. Keeping in mind that bright lights can be intrusive, Stephen will pursue this course with homeowners’ permission. A letter will be sent to all homeowners whose streetlights have become obscured. We may need to appropriate funds for this work. There may be funds available from our sidewalk project and from the landscape budget.

Shelia Brown explained the proposed budget for 2022. The budget was sent to homeowners in the newsletter. It included an increase of $800 to the Holiday Décor line item to include the new tree wrapping proposal. Warren moved to approve the budget and John Wood seconded it. The motion passed.

Stephen Schexnayder presented the slate of officers for election. They are the same as last year. President – Stephen Schexnayder, Vice-President – Warren Stickrod, Treasurer – Shelia Brown, Secretary – Elaine Weinmeister and Officer-at-Large – Miles Hall. There were no other names nominated from the floor. John Wood moved to elect the officers on the slate. The motion was seconded and approved.

There being no other business to come before the meeting, Stephen Schexnayder adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Weinmeister