

RFCA Board of Directors Meeting  
November 2, 2021  
Minutes  
Zoom Meeting

**Board of Director Attendees:**

Marcie Winitt - President  
John Ritchie – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Richard Hildebrand – 2d Vice President  
Kristoffer Hull - Treasurer  
Diwakar Sharma – Corresponding Secretary  
Ginger Rogers – Recording Secretary

**Attendees:**

Shobha McConnell – *The Farmer*, Editor  
Ruth Hartman – Hospitality  
Stephanie Hammond - Resident  
Robert Blizzard – Resident

The meeting was called to order by Marcie at 7:47 PM. The minutes from the October 6, 2021, Board meeting were approved.

**Committee Updates:**

Budget – Kristoffer brought the board up to date on issues related to the transfer of the job responsibilities from John Ritchie. Steve Beste had an invoice from the Directories ordered for the current FY. Kristoffer will check with Steve to see how many Directories remain at the end of sales campaign to adjust next year’s budget. John has provided Kristoffer with the budget information for the last six years – from 2016-2021. Revenue has been running about \$10K per year over the six years. He has tried to match the Revenue to the category of output. Advertising revenue from the Directory and *The Farmer* pays for the printing and distribution of the publications. Other association activities(yard sales, BBQ, donations, etc.), are paid with the revenue from dues. All donations have been paid out (Church, Boy Scouts, School) at \$250 each. Kristoffer is still working on the PayPal issue for dues payment on the web site.

John will order a “For Deposit Only” stamp for endorsing checks and will poll other Civic Associations in the area to find out if they have been sued.

*The Farmer* – Shobha needs input by this Saturday, November 6, including The President’s Letter and any ads that will be included. She thanked Rob Blizzard for all the great articles he has contributed. She had no additional updates. She has sent the invoice to John.

**Old Business**

Ravensworth Farm Original Owner Commemoration – Robert Blizzard explained the background for having a Ravensworth Farm Original Owners Commemoration. Ten years ago, there was a 50-year anniversary for the original owners, which included his parents. The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. In the absence of the party, he decided to write articles for *The Farmer* about original owners residing in

Ravensworth Farm. He began by going through the directory and picking out names he recognized from his time in the neighborhood. He has exhausted the list and thought he would write about those who are now “famous” such as Fawn Hall, Jim Acosta (CNN), and Dave Mattingly (NPR).

Rob then got the idea to do something for all the original owners – a commemorative garden setting near the tennis courts. He suggested planting six cherry trees, like those at the Tidal Basin, with flowers planted around the base. He checked prices at Merrifield, which proved expensive, and thought less mature trees would be less expensive. He also thought a sign saying something like “In Honor of Ravensworth Farm Original Owners” and a ribbon cutting ceremony would be nice. He also said some bushes may have to be taken out for the planting.

Two options for the ceremony are:

1. Invitation to original owners and local officials. Perhaps have a photographer on hand to take pictures and provide light refreshments.
2. Do the planting and then have a meeting at the school. Invite original owners and speakers, have a rendering of the site available to view, and have the party previously planned before COVID-19.

Rob will oversee the details of the planting and invite the owners.

#### Current Price List

Trees - \$3900 (Merrifield: trees, plants, removal of two bushes)

Sign - \$500

Photographer - \$500 (Kinder or Speith (sp), residents who may be cheaper)

First Event – Refreshments - \$1000

Total - \$5900

#### Issues:

1. Funding – tax deductible donation? Do not advertise in *The Farmer* until we are ready to unveil. We will have to let the community know of the plan to see if they agree to an expenditure for the plan, especially if funds are to come from the “reserve fund” currently held in case of liability claims. Also, we may have to redo the signage at the Inverchapel and Queensberry entrances due to the Braddock Road Project.
2. Will the association be able to use the Church or School? May not be possible due to restrictions on who is eligible to use. Both had added a requirement for a Proof of Liability Certificate which the association does not have.
3. Location of the garden – will have to get the Pool Board to agree. Marcie will check with the pool.
4. Cost of trees and plants – check with other landscape companies such as Burke or Meadow Farms.
5. Time Frame – Rob mentioned that normal plantings occur in the Fall but can also plant in April. He starts back to school in January but could write the copy for *The Farmer* and the appeal letter (for donations).
6. Tax Deductible – Kristoffer will need to research to determine if the association is a 501(c)(4). Currently, he would not feel comfortable saying that donations are tax

deductible. Kristoffer will check to see about liability insurance; the board will need to decide how to use the reserve fund and if we want to contribute as an organization. Richard suggested that we might want to wait until the next General Membership meeting (March 2022) to gain membership approval. Kristoffer suggested that we may also want to have the issue of liability insurance approved by membership.

### **New Business**

Speed Bumps – Marcie mentioned that Peter Tran, who lives at the curve on Inverchapel, next to the church, has contacted James Walkinshaw (Braddock District Supervisor) regarding the installation of a speed bump near his home. He was advised that he needed to have the Board send a letter to James. Mr. Tran told Marcie that he has had the police monitor the area, but everyone slowed down when they saw the police. Marcie agreed to forward a request from the RFCA to Mr. Walkinshaw and will let Mr. Tran know of our action. Richard mentioned that neighbors around the speed bump need to agree.

The Junk Truck – Table until next month.

**Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 9:33 PM.