

Village of Martin's Additions Community Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 19th, 2022, 7.00pm

Committee Chair Keith Allen called the meeting to order.

Members Susan Kahn, Naomi Naierman and Paul McGowan were in attendance.

Village Residents: Kathleen Bishop, Susan Post, Lynn Welle, Marty Langelan and Lois also attended, along with Council Members Katie Howard, Jeffrey Blander, Susan Fattig and Village Manager Niles Anderegg.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, Paul McGowan proposed they be accepted, Keith Allen seconded, and all the members approved.

Chair Keith asked the residents if there were any comments – there were none at this time.

The following topics were discussed at the meeting:

1. Street Captains
2. Oral History / Legacy Project
3. Community Engagement Committee (CEC) Structure
4. CEC Communication to Village
5. Emergency System Communications
6. Village Welcome Packets
7. Library Re-development Interest Group
8. La Ferme February Social Event

1. Street Captains

At the previous meeting Paul McGowan had volunteered to reach out to the Street Captains to (a) confirm that each current named street captain wants to stay in the role (b) try to recruit others for where there are gaps and (c) co-ordinate activities such as contact lists, text chains etc. No action had been taken since the previous meeting, but now that Paul has the list of Street Captains he will start that process, and that will be an 'interest group' in the new CEC structure.

2. Oral History / Legacy Project

Committee member Naomi Naierman reported that the Oral History / Legacy pilot initiative was well underway and successful, bringing young residents of the village together with older residents to hear stories, learn more about local history, conduct interviews etc. This initiative / interest group will benefit the community greatly by increasing connectivity, building relationships, helping interested middle schoolers and high schoolers develop journalism / writing skills and even get SSL credits for towards high school graduation.

3. CEC Structure

The committee reviewed a document outlining a new structure and approach for the CEC that in addition to carrying out its primary mission as organizing social and other events the CEC would

support and help co-ordinate community engagement activities – e.g., Oral History, Gardening, Street Captain co-ordination etc. It was agreed that these potential activities (a) should not burden the village staff with any additional work (b) not be subjected to official Government processes or bureaucracy and (c) need a passionate and enthusiastic leader or sponsor.

4. CEC Communication to Village

The committee reviewed a draft letter to the Village residents outlining the above structure and agreed to edit it to add the 3 points above and to send it out to the village.

Susan Kahn proposed the motion to send the edited letter out

Paul McGowan seconded, and the committee agreed. Paul McGowan agreed to edit the letter for the committee's final approval to send out.

5. Emergency System Communications

The committee and residents discussed some recent challenges in communicating to village residents in emergencies.

Susan Kahn proposed that the CEC recommend to the Village Council that the Emergency Response contact capability be reviewed by Village Management.

Paul McGowan seconded, and the committee approved the motion.

6. Village Welcome Packets

Village Resident Lynn Welle suggested a couple of additions to the Village Welcome packets for new residents.

Susan Kahn moved that these be added to the welcome packets.

Paul McGowan seconded the motion and the committee agreed.

7. Library Redevelopment Interest Group

Our local library on Connecticut Avenue is to be re-developed. The new library in Wheaton was discussed as a wonderful example of how a new library development can add to the community. Marty Langelan proposed that VMA / CEC should make a coordinated effort to influence the development process.

Marty volunteered to lead and co-ordinate a Library Re-Development Interest Group for the CEC.

8. La Ferme Social Event.

A social event at La Ferme had been planned for February 6th. Due to COVID restrictions and risks this is not the best timing.

Keith Allen proposed that we postpone the social event until further notice.

Paul McGowan seconded, and the committee agreed.

A brief discussion was held around scheduling a social event in "election season" (from March 25th, when candidates' names are made public, until May 10th election) – and that in the past there was a perception that events scheduled then favored incumbents. The question was asked should the CEC agree to not hold events in this election window? This could be considered if the

Election Committee or the Village Council asked the committee not to schedule events during election season.

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm.