

WHOA Meeting on Feb 21, 2024

Meeting Opened

Dean Vandelay, the WHOA president, welcomed and thanked those in attendance. He led the group in citing the Pledge of Allegiance. He followed by mentioning dues are available to be taken tonight by Steve Elliott, WHOA Treasurer, or by mail or online.

Old Business

Norse Drive Island Project

Mez Vandelay provided a recap of the Norse Drive Island Project. The project involved removing 62 bushes, planting 15 new sapling crape myrtles, trimming seven mature crape myrtle trees, and cleaning up the entire street. The labor by this group saved the WHOA approximately \$2000.

Mez thanked several neighbors who made the project successful: Helen Hall provided lunch for the 15 volunteers. Ed and Gerrie Strack loaned tools and the use of their yard as the hub for all tools and breaks. On the day of the installation of the plant material, I, Dante and Valerie Thompson lent tools and provided their water tank and hoses to water the newly planted trees. They have continued to water the new plants every two weeks. Drea & Eric Horton loaned their pickup truck to haul the removed plant material to the landfill. The WCC allowed the use of the banquet room for lunch and loaned a golf cart and several tools. Lastly, these neighbors loaned much-needed tools: Chris & Shayla Cooper, Steve & Meredith Elliott, Eric Hayth, Kerry Myers, and Greg Arling.

New Business

Committee Missions, Plans, and Budget Requests for the Year

Social Committee (Kerry Myers)

Presented the committee mission and went over the calendar of planned events. We can try again next year for any events that don't get accomplished. Most planned activities are of no cost to the HOA; the funds come from the participants who want to attend the event (for example, wreath making). Expenditures are the Summer pool event and the Holiday party. Last year, we had great success at both events. We intend to use grant funds again from Richland County; however, we will impose a small charge for non-WHOA community residents. The other Woodlands neighborhoods are welcome and encouraged to participate. Yard of the month will start again in April. The social committee needs someone to spearhead this activity. Please contact Kerry @ Social.WoodlandsHOA@gmail.com if you can lend a little of your time each month for this.

CERT Committee (Ashley Auspelmyer)

Ashley presented the committee's mission and budget request. CERT will work closely with the welcome committee to ensure new residents know CERT is here. CERT will work with the social committee by taking advantage of the well-attended events to let the community know CERT is here, offer information, and possibly train on safety-related topics. Lastly, CERT will seek grant funding to purchase an AED and donate it to the Woodlands Country Club. Let the board know if you have any questions, we will get you in touch with Ashley.

Welcoming Committee (Kaye Branham for Margaret Houck)

There are 2 volunteers for this committee. She presented the committee's mission and budget request for printing. The committee reached out to 7 new homeowners in the last 3 months. One has allowed a visit to share information about the community, Woodlands HOA, and the Woodlands Country Club.

Beautification & Landscaping Committee – no chairperson

Dean Vandelay presented -This committee has no chairperson. The big update referencing this committee's activity was the Norse Drive Islands Project. Watering and tree feeding will continue throughout this summer, then minor upkeep. The other entrances are maintained solely by two volunteers, Angie and Jerry Weidner. They are on autopilot and doing an excellent job.

Architectural Advisory Committee – no chairperson

Dean Vandelay presented -the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) no longer has a chairperson. According to our attorney, the ACC is no longer a viable option for enforcing covenants, and it would require a homeowner to take another homeowner to court if they violate the covenants. There is no defined body to represent the neighbors. The executive committee, along with Jim and Tom (formally ACC committee members), has decided to continue in some capacity as the Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC), which will be a part of the WHOA, similar to other committees. The AAC's new focus will be on the county and state ordinances. Research is currently underway and expected to be publicized in May. In the fall, the AAC plans to survey homeowners to determine their feelings regarding all the priorities that the covenants used to handle. The only thing to do with the survey results is to publicize them. Hoping it factors into decisions our neighbors make, knowing how the majority feels. Lastly, the AAC will strive to provide more value-added information for residents rather than telling people what they can't do. However, the committee is currently going through some growing pains and needs more help. If you enjoy research and can add value to our community, reach out and join the new AAC.

Executive Committee (Dean Vandelay)

Dean presented that the goal of the executive committee was to enable the other committees, ensuring they are supported financially, to remove roadblocks.

The Budget

Steve Elliott thanked those who have paid their dues. He presented a recap of the 2023 budget, the proposed 2024 budget, and the bank balance. Beth Griffin made a motion to accept the budget. There was a second motion. The 2024 budget was voted upon and approved with no objections by show of hands. There was a unanimous vote in favor, and no one opposed.

The floor was open for questions/comments.

QUESTION: Are social events on the website?

ANSWER: Yes. The events, with firm dates, are on the website. They will be advertised on Facebook in advance also.

Dean pointed out that unless there is a specific need, we would only have 1-2 administrative meetings in 2024. There will be no meetings with speakers such as C.A.T. Officers, elected officials, or country representatives. Although they are beneficial and desired, we need someone to spearhead organizing the speaker. The social committee would gladly appreciate the help because they are stretched too thin to take this on. If you are interested in these and willing to help, please email Social.WoodlandsHOA@gmail.com.

QUESTION: If we won't have a meeting until November, how will the WHOA and committees communicate whatever is going on or provide updates?

ANSWER: We will communicate via email, the website, and the Facebook page. If you want to reach us - use the website, Facebook, or email us. President - President.Woodlands@gmail.com, Treasurer Treasurer.Woodlands@gmail.com, General WoodlandsNE@gmail.com.

Bylaws

Dean Vandelay presented the proposed changes to the Bylaws. Beth Griffin made a motion to accept the bylaws. There was a second motion. The 2024 budget was voted upon and approved with no objections by show of hands. There was a unanimous vote in favor, and no one opposed.

QUESTION: Will the Bylaws go out to all the owners?

ANSWER: The Bylaws are on the website and Facebook. We provide them to real estate closing agents for new purchases when applicable.

COMMENT:

Dean shared the flyer we all may have received in the mail from Richland County and how this is something that impacts us and urged residents to attend the:

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING: CLEMSON ROAD/SPARKLEBERRY LANE

Event date: 3/6/2024 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM at Spring Valley High School, 120 Sparkleberry Lane, Columbia, SC.

COMMENT:

If you have not received an email from the WHOA requesting dues or a copy of the ByLaws, we either don't have it, it is wrong, or it went to your spam fold. We would appreciate it if you would reach out and provide it. Email is one of our lifelines to provide updates and happenings in our community. Email keeps extra expenses for mailings or labor to distribute communications manually to a minimum. Your assistance is appreciated.

QUESTION: Do you know what the digging and cables around the neighborhood are?

ANSWER: This is AT&T contractors updating the fiber optic cable. The long-term benefits of the upgrade will increase speed, improve quality, and provide strong security.

QUESTION: I would like to have the Woodlands Country Club as a speaker to present its plans for the future. Because what they do impacts the value of our homes. Can we help in any way, and can we collaborate on anything to make this community better?

ANSWER: Randy Waters, one of the owners of the WCC, attended the meeting and shared updates regarding the club's ongoing projects. There are plans to update the tennis courts to include the addition of pickleball courts. There will be an assessment of repair for the pool. WCC is also making several updates to the golf course. However, as with any business, he could not guarantee the property's future and the possibility of a sale.

Meeting Adjourned