

CROSSLANDS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

Monday, September 8, 2014

Present: Jerry Dagher, Maralyn Gillespie, Char Gosselink, Steve Green, David Heckman, Dale Kendall, Julia Kennedy, Bonnie Marcus, Maggie McCaskey, Dot Mullestein, Betty Nathan, Dick Scheldt, Del Tweedie.
Administration: Phil DeBaun.

Also Present: Brigitte Alexander, Denny Schreyer, Jean Barker, Andy Schofield, Wendell Lofland, Sharon Sundial, Martel Montgomery, Ruth Spencer, Jean Perkins, Barb Pusey, Don Pusey, Frank O'Sullivan, Bobbie O'Sullivan, David Peaceful, Jane Krick, Sybil Pike, Connie Hill, Charmaine Kissinger, Sarah Lee Houston, Elizabeth Bainbridge, Peg Parker, Vergie Spiker, Jennifer Allcock, Elizabeth Rhoads, Chuck Gosselink, Trudy Reed, Dick Kline, Fanny Cracknell, Betsy Walker, Mary Lee Barker, Bernie Comber, Karen Cynthia LaPara, David Rhoads, Sally

Welcome President Del Tweedie called for a Moment of Silence. He then welcomed everyone, with special greetings to new Board members and to Dick Kline, former CRA President. He noted that comments and questions from visitors in the audience would be welcome at the end of regular business.

Minutes The minutes of June 2, 2014 were approved.

Treasurer's Report Assistant Treasurer Bonnie Marcus explained that during the summer there had been little financial activity in the CRA account. She noted that the \$10,000 from the estate of Carol Crotty had been divided equally between the Library (the Alexander Fund) and the Music Committee (will be relegated to Piano upkeep).

First Vice President Maralyn Gillespie explained that the monthly Concerns Session between two Board members and residents is the opportunity for suggestions and grievances to be addressed confidentially. These sessions are held in the Webb Savery Room on third Tuesdays.

Dale Kendall and David Heckman's June Concerns Report dealt with three fire safety issues in the William Penn Room. Two concerned access to the exits and will be handled by Housekeeping and performance groups, and the third about the exit signs will be noted when the William Penn Room undergoes renovation. The discussion led to a suggestion that Concerns Sessions be held during July and August. Board members approved this idea. The change will be effective in 2015.

Second Vice President There are presently 91 resident committees that fall under Maggie McCaskey's purview. She has prepared lists of those committees with meeting times, members, and chairs for display on the main hall bulletin boards, and encourages residents to contact her with any questions.

President's Report:

Del asked for the newly formed Kendal-Crosslands Transportation Committee's Report. It was given by Martel Montgomery (attached) and included a mission statement, followed by a request to circulate a questionnaire among the residents to narrow down the transportation needs of our communities. The Board was in favor of the questionnaire which will be in the open boxes on September 18.

Del called for a discussion of the idea to assign Board members to each of the resident

Committees to serve as liaisons to the CRA Board. Board members were not excited by that idea, citing that it might become too complicated and further, that the Committee chairs should know that the CRA 2nd VP is available to give aid and support. It was noted that there is space in the *Chronicle* allotted to CRA in which an article giving Maggie's availability to the Committees could be described.

Administration Report: Phil DeBaun

Beginning with an update on the Health and Wellness Center renovation project Phil reported that all Firbank residents have moved into permanent rooms in Firbank East, West, and Central. This has taken a lot of energy and patience by everyone, but the result is worth it. At present Warfel is paving the employee parking lots and removing a lot of equipment. The front hallway in Firbank will be completed by the end of October.

The next set of renovations in the Community Center entryway has hit a snag in the permitting process. Once that is cleared the work will begin in the foyer of the front entryway, then move to the long hall to the Library, and finally, work on the hall between the Wm. Penn Lounge and the Dining Room. Assuming the work can proceed it should be completed by February 2015.

Special incentives for the smaller units by the Admissions Office resulted in eighteen new resident sales this summer: 10 at Kendal and 8 at Crosslands. Additional new incentives are in process. At the present Crosslands has 52 empty units. Phil next discussed a resident 'repositioning' plan in which Love and Co. will take a long range view of the maximum type of attractive housing and advise the KC Board accordingly.

Results from the 'Satisfaction' Surveys were quite positive, and the high return rate of 80% increased their validity. That rate also indicated just how much residents were invested in the well being of their communities. Transportation was mentioned frequently which indicated the timeliness of the work of the new Transportation Committee.

There will be an all campus fire drill on September 26. Look for a further notice of this. Phil thanked everyone who is serving as a fire warden, and invited new applicants for those positions. Residents affirmed the need to have the necessary number of fire wardens. Ellerslie is covered by staff.

Phil introduced the new Director of Philanthropy, Stephanie Cory, and explained that she will be working on planned giving, and a number of other philanthropic issues for both communities.

During the question period Phil answered the following inquiries:

What are the plans for renovations to the two story apartment buildings?

Answer: The budget calls for one building per year. Evans will be next.

What is repositioning?

Answer: That is a vague planning term. It is related in this case to building or reconfiguring the specific types of housing were it possible to match what the market is demanding. The most recently built housing is fully occupied, and older units are more likely to be empty. Change will be greatest for single bedroom places.

Should the names of donors to the Health and Wellness Renovations be listed when about half of the community did not or could not contribute? Could it not be in general terms, such as 'we give thanks to those who were able to contribute.'

Answer: When those extra gifts were solicited people were given the choice of how they would like to be listed or not listed. Those who gave were promised there would be some recognition.

Is there any plan to do a thorough renovation of Ellerslie, including structural changes to the bathrooms, etc. that would raise its quality as a place to stay?

Answer: Yes, though the exact plans have not yet been determined.

A second question: Is there any place for guests at Crosslands that does not require climbing a flight of stairs?

Answer: So far, that is not being considered. There are a number of lodging opportunities in the neighborhood.

A concern for appropriate signage in the Community Center during the next renovations was expressed. This would be greater in an emergency.

Phil assured the meeting that it would be quite adequate.

Report from the Visitor to the June Kendal Residents Association: Maralyn Gillespie

There is no visitor from the KRA today because the KRA is meeting at this same time. However, Maralyn went to the June KRA Meeting and shared the plans for four new skilled nursing rooms, concerns for barking dogs, dollars for the new website, and a constitutional amendment to create a committee on communication.

Final Issues:

A resident raised an objection to disallowing visitors to speak during the body of the meeting. Del reminded him that this would be in effect this year.

Are resident-owned golf carts allowed on Kendal-Crosslands property?

Answer: Phil admitted that this has not been discussed, but he could see that it would raise a number of interesting questions: parking, safety, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte P. Gosselink