

Great River Community Association

General Meeting Minutes

Date / Time: Thursday, May 19 at 7pm

Location: Great River Firehouse

Invitees / Attendees:

Board Members

- JoAnn Kukenis
- Rosina O'Shea
- John Acerno
- Tony Blumenstetter
- James Bruno
- James DiGiovanna
- Cliff Gibbons
- Paul Llobell
- Jeff Wilbert
- Georgette Lambros

Guest Speakers (1)

- Joy Arden – Bayard Cutting Arboretum
- Kevin Wiecks – Director, Bayard Cutting Arboretum

Residents (15)

Agenda / Meeting Notes

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Acceptance of meeting minutes from the General Meeting held on Wednesday November 10, 2021
 - a. Accepted by Cliff and Tony
 - b. Meeting minutes can be found on the GRCA11739 website
3. Officers & Board Members
 - a. Introduction of new Treasurer - Georgette Lambros.
 - b. We will be holding elections in the Fall. Please contact us if you are interested in becoming an officer.
4. Financial Report
 - a. \$36,462.27 – Checking account
 - b. \$12,817.21 – PayPal account
 - c. Outstanding to be paid
 - i. \$6,431.25 – Strip Steak for Spring Cocktail party
 - ii. \$49.17 – water bill
 - iii. \$56.37 – water bill
 - iv. Approx. \$600 - plantings
5. Guest Speaker – Joy Arden, Landscape Curator – Bayard Cutting Arboretum
 - a. Kevin has been promoted to Director
 - b. Joy is a resource that the Great River community can leverage. She's open to helping the community and available to answer any questions that the community may have. Feel free to visit her at the arboretum or email her.
 - c. Bayard Cutting Arboretum is a level 4 arboretum. It took 15 years to get the paperwork completed. There are 5,000 unique trees from all around the world. An interactive map can be found on the website.

- d. Oak trees – Black Oaks are declining. The arboretum had 47 Oak trees shipped to them from Georgia so that they can make the oak park more diverse. Average life span of an oak is usually 200-250 years (ideally they should live 500 years).
 - e. Beech Trees – The large Beech tree on the lawn has Beech Leaf disease that has evolved over the last few years. Cause hasn't been determined. If trees get this disease they generally die within 2 years. They're doing experiments to try to determine the cause. Signs of disease – zebra stripes under the leaf. The older the tree the faster the disease will progress. They're currently doing sprays and chemical injections to treat the tree as well as working with other resources for assistance.
 - f. New parking lot will be completed in the Fall. Currently there are 180 parking spots. They're adding an additional 40 (making a new total of 220) and making the parking spots larger.
 - g. Visitor center – new building that will be constructed that's in the 1st parking lot. Contains a bathroom, map of the arboretum.
 - h. Assistance needed - Paradise Island restoration / clean up so that tours can be done. This is the area between Great River and Oakdale that overlooks Dowling.
 - i. Cornell Cooperative Extension is available at the Arboretum on Thursday and Friday from 9-4. See Alice with any questions.
6. 3rd Police Precinct Meeting Update
- a. Precinct has 2 dozen cars, but since there is a shortage of crossing guards they're obligated to fill those spots prior to sending any cars on patrol in the area.
 - b. Residents need to call when there are issues. This will help to ensure we have a patrol in the area.
 - c. There is a nightly patrol car that goes through Great River due to the car surfing that has been reported.
7. Past Events & Accomplishments
- a. Litter Pick up being done by the Boy Scouts, Ellen Shulman, Carol Hopkins and Christine Carplunk.
 - i. David Jones volunteered to clean up Great River Road. He will reach out to JoAnn.
 - b. November 28, 2021: Menorah lighting was held at the Memorial Park on Great River Road
 - c. December 4, 2021: Tree lighting took place at the Memorial Park on Great River Road
 - d. March 17, 2021: Newsletter mailed to all community members.
 - e. May 4, 2022: 2021 Taxes were filed (due 5/15) courtesy of James Phelan, CPA Great River resident.
 - f. May 6, 2022: Spring Cocktail party was held at Strip Steak, 100 residents attended
8. Upcoming Events
- a. May 21, 2022: Eagle Scout project taking place at the Memorial Park.
 - b. May 29, 2022: Memorial Day parade. Everyone is invited to march starting at 11am.
9. Other notes
- a. Neighborhood Watch program is no longer in place. If you are interested in starting this back up please reach out to JoAnn.
 - b. Hanging baskets: GRCA will purchase hanging baskets using the membership funds. The baskets will be getting hung next week. The Great River Deli and Strip Steak have agreed to water the plants on a regular basis.
 - c. Resident asked if we could have the town put signs up by the parkway to notify people of the fine for littering. JoAnn & Ellen will look into this.
 - d. Bowling alley on Main Street was sold and will be closing. We will notify the community of any updates we may hear on this area.
 - e. Resident asked if the town could fix the drainage issue at the dock. JoAnn advised she will call the town to see if this can be addressed.