

Fairfield Farms Steering Committee meeting minutes

Location: 143 Fairfield Drive, Fairfield Farms

Date: June 28, 2023

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: 29 residents were in attendance.

Michele Buckler led the meeting.

Eric and Suchrita Warner hosted the meeting in their backyard. Eric Warner and Carol Apgar took notes during the meeting.

Agenda items

Michele Buckler opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with thanks going to everyone there for coming, and to Erik and Suchrita Warner for their help.

Michele began with a brief history of the civic association. She stated that she had been in touch with several residents of Fairfield Farms who had concerns that the Civic Association could deal with if it were up and running. Her hope is for this association to be proactive in problem solving instead of reactive. She would like to see us use the association as a way for neighbors to get to know each other. In the past this was done by some residents having open houses at the Holidays, setting out luminaries, ice skating on Moore's Lake, and in 1991 there was a street party. Activities provided a way to neighbors to know each other and build a community.

She suggested that a steering committee be formed until we can reestablish the Fairfield Farms Civic Association (FFCA). She also suggested that small committees be put in place to help the FFCA run more efficiently.

The smaller committees could be: Bylaws, Legislative Action, Crime Watch, Special Events, Welcome, etc.

She then called Mr Roger Hollopeter forward and introduced him. He spoke about the Crime Watch program. Mentioned that the Levy Court meets on the 4th Thursday of each month, and that residents should attend that meeting. Many different groups are

represented there ie: DNREC, DMV, Troops 3 and 9, Dover and Clayton. Questions can be asked, and problems brought up.

Roger Hollopeter suggested forming a Board at tonight's meeting, a discussion was held, it was determined by the group that not everyone in the community knows about the FFCA, there may be neighbors interested in a leadership position, postpone creating a Board until a future date.

Kathy Askin said, invite every household, we need to let everyone know the organization's mission.

Duray Austin suggested we create a Mission Statement

Kathy Askin added, other neighbors may want things that we are not talking about tonight, Kathy suggested forming Focus Groups

Kathy Askin continued to say, there are new people in our community, and young people, give them an opportunity to express themselves.

Mike Apgar asked, what are the problems?

Michele Buckler suggested to the attendees that we focus on positive, community building activities first, then after the FFCA is established, address concerns that arise.

Duray Austin stated there are three age groups that make up our community, each age group thinks differently.

Kathy Askin contributed to Duray's statement that we need to have diversity.

Michele Buckler said we need to first focus on increasing participation.

Roger H. volunteered to spearhead the Neighborhood Watch.

There was a group conversation regarding Registered Agent and EIN, since John Hindman is deceased, and the EIN has been inactive for several years. There was a brief discussion of what an agent is and what they do.

There was conversation about where to hold future FFCA meetings, Levy Court, Troop 3, Frederica CC holds at least 300; CR has a small auditorium, Fire Station, Knights of Columbus in Camden, VFW, Dover Grange, one of the school's auditoriums, and public library. Kathy Askin shared that state legislators host meetings, perhaps they can

help, Rodger H. mentioned that he will investigate holding meeting at the Levy Court. Jim Austin suggested the next meeting be held in mid-September after school starts.

There was some discussion about the best ways to communicate within the neighborhood.

There were also some suggestions about social media, however, not everyone is on social media or on the same social media platform. There was some talk about making a website, since most if not everyone has internet access. Roger H. suggested that we tape a flyer to people's front door. Jim Austin volunteered to provide printing and copying services.

Cathy Askin volunteered to help Michele.

Erik Warner asked anyone with a talent to contact him.

Michele Buckler closed the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and participating. "We have lots of things to do". Thanking everyone for coming out.

Steering Committee Recreation of the Fairfield Farms Civic
Association

June 28, 2023

Michele Buckler's talking Points

Welcome	<p>Welcome and thank you for coming!</p> <p>I also want to thank Erik and Pell for allowing us to have the meeting in their beautiful backyard. And those who have helped me get to this point.</p>
Minutes	<p>I would like to ask someone to take the minutes of the meeting please.</p>
Key Message:	<p>After talking to many of you, I feel that we all have a common concern. That is the direction that the neighborhood will be going in during the upcoming years. I have learned that many of you have been talking to your core groups about this very thing.</p> <p>Tonight let us focus on building a solid foundation for a Strong, Healthy, Civic Association. Together we can cope with difficult challenges, band together to solve problems, celebrate life's lighter moments and build a Strong and Healthy Community.</p>
The Why	<p>Many of you have asked me WHY am I wanting to reform the Fairfield Farms Civic Association once again?</p> <p>For me it is a very personal reason..... I LOVE WHERE I LIVE. My Mother and I love the people of this</p>

	<p>community and we have built lifelong friends here. I was 6 years old when we moved to Fairfield Farms. I played in these streets and planted deep roots here. There are several of us here tonight that grew up here, left for a bit, but found our way back to Fairfield Farms because it is HOME! Living in Fairfield Farms was always something to be proud of.</p>
<p>Growing Up Traditions</p> <p>1991</p>	<p>Many of us have very fond memories of the traditions that this community offered. Such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many neighbors would have open their homes for a Holiday Celebration, where you as a neighbor always felt welcome. • The streets were lined with luminaries Christmas Eve night. Many of us would stroll through the neighborhood looking at the Christmas lights. • Ice Skating on Moores Lake but only after the 2nd Freeze. • Going to the Pits with our bikes and riding the trails. • Street Party where the neighborhood came together, and we closed off a small section and everyone would bring a dish and celebrate. • There are many more. <p>What do all of these activities had in common? It was a way that we got to know our neighbors and built a fun and safe community.</p>
<p>Problems</p>	<p>We have also had our problems over the years. When we got into CRISIS mode, The Fairfield Farms Civic</p>

	<p>Association formed and quickly banded together. Together we were able to overcome the Challenges. Because we were willing to come together as a whole and have open lines of communication to discuss problems and as a group. In doing so we became more effective than what any a single homeowner could ever be.</p>
<p>My Vision of the FFCA</p>	<p>My hopes are that we can form a solid foundation for the Fairfield Farms Civic Association before we get into a major CRISIS mode and must scramble once again.</p> <p>I also feel that having something in place now can help prevent problems in the future. I am also hoping that this Civic Association will be active and healthy for many decades to come. To do this we are going to need a plan and your participation.</p> <p>Lets be PRO-ACTIVE instead of RE-ACTIVE</p>
<p>Questions</p>	<p>It has been suggested that perhaps for this meeting that we form a short-term Steering Committee for the FFCA. Since I was not able to talk to everyone in the neighborhood. This committee's purpose is to reach out to our neighbors and talk about the Association and help lay a solid foundation and direction for the FFCA.</p> <p>I feel that once we have a good foundation, and everyone is aware of what we are doing, then we can form the actual FFCA.</p>

	<p>For this Association to run smoothly, I feel that it needs to be a group effort. There are a lot of areas that need to be covered. This is where the sub-committees, like outlined in the Original Minutes 6-7-1988 under the Fairfield Farms Civic Association Umbrella. Can really make a difference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By-Law Committee – Review the by-laws for amendment of articles.• Legislation Action Committee -• Neighborhood Watch /Safety Committee• Special Events and Interest Have theme nights, group activities, participate in fund raisers, guest speakers at meetings, and hobbies and special interest groups.• Welcome and Hospitality• Utilities and Service Committee – This is a group that coordinates with utilities to air neighborhood grievances. <p>My belief is that a big problem is just a bunch of little problems that were never addressed. By having these committees, it will allow us to get to know our neighbors and possibly have something in place where we can prevent future problems. I also think that having the committees will ensure that the FFCA thrives for many decades. But it requires your participation.</p> <p>(Pause for a bit)</p>
Input	<p>I realize that the Summer may be more challenging to get this going, however I am hoping to use the Summer months to our advantage. There are many</p>

	<p>tasks that we can start working on to get the ball moving faster than what one person can do alone. I am asking for your help and participation to get this Association off the ground.</p> <p>Tonight, I would like to hear what you would like to see happen with the Civic Association. We want to hear your questions /concerns and ideas.</p> <p>I have a flip chart paper for you to write down your thoughts. You can write your name next to your comment if you like.</p>
Questions	<p>I realize that you may have a lot of questions that we may not be able to answer tonight.</p> <p>Here are a few thing that we can do together to help the process along.</p>
Spread the word	<p>We need you to go out and talk with your neighbors and spread the word that we want to re-establish and active Fairfield Farms Civic Association.</p> <p>When you talk to your neighbors, please get their email address and phone number so that I can send them a copy of the by-laws, certificate of incorporation, minutes from the June 1988 meeting as well as this meeting.</p>

	I am also updating a directory for the FFCA
Lawyers Office	<p>We need to look into contacting our Registered agent, John B Hindman to notify him that we want to re-estate the Fairfield Farms Civic Association.</p> <p>Or Where and possibly with whom can we use as a Register agent.</p> <p>How do we make these changes needed.</p>
EIN	<p>We will need to find out if we can use our original EIN # or do we need to file for a new one.</p> <p>Cost involved with that process.</p>
Bank	Open a bank account for the Association.
Dues	<p>With that being said, I would also like your input on how much the dues should be for the first year.</p> <p>In 1988 the Annual dues were \$20.00 for each member. By-laws page 4</p> <p>I feel that \$50.00 per member is a fair amount. <i>IS equivalent to \$51.58 today.</i></p>
Next Meeting	<p>We need to set a date for our next meeting.</p> <p>When, How, and Where? I am thinking in the Fall, after School Starts. Should this be in person, on zoom, or a hybrid?</p>

Best way to Communicate?	<p>How is best to communicate with our members? Email, Letters taped to door, Text, Social Media, website, or another way?</p> <p>Most of us have email addresses.</p> <p>I am thinking that we should do a email/print newsletter a couple times of year? Recapping what the Committees are doing, Reminder about Special Events, Dues, etc</p>
FFCA Kick off Community Event	<p>Do we want to plan a Community Event late Summer early Fall? Perhaps a Community Yard Sale</p>
Board of The FFCA	<p>Does anyone from this group want to be on the FFCA Board, and what position would you like to hold. Please let me know.</p> <p>Also Who is anyone interested on being on one of the Committees, which one. Is there another Committee that you would like to see? We will need multiple people for each Committee. Please Email me.</p>
First FFCA 2023 Event	<p>With All of that said, we are planning our FIRST 2023 FFCA Activity. On Wednesday July 19th we will have our First GLOW BIKE RIDE! So go all out and decorate your bikes and helmets with lights, Glow Sticks, streamers, and noise makers. There are no limits as long as you</p>

	<p>and others can ride safely! This ride will be fun for the whole family. We ask that children must be accompanied by an adult and please wear brightly colored clothing and closed-toe shoes.</p> <p>We will be leaving 115 N. Fairfield Drive at ^{8:30}8:20 PM. and we will ride for about 45 minutes through the neighboring developments. Rain date July 20th.</p>
Closing	<p>I want to Thank Everyone Again for coming out tonight. This is YOUR Association as much as it is Mine. I feel that we can build a strong community and have a great time doing it. But We need your participation!</p>

(Introduce Roger) Roger Hollopeter has been active with the Kent Co. Crime watch program for more than 2 decades he also was instrumental in helping us get the streetlights. I have asked him to speak about the Kent County Crime watch program and what has been going on in our community for the past couple of months.