Severn Woods Homeowners Association

Meeting Minutes - 5/21/22

Summary

- Introduction
- Voted to approve vinyl fences
- Casino Grant and projects we want to do
- Boats and RVs
- Trees
- Grass
- Old Telephone boxes
- Abandoned cars
- Gas Line
- Seeking volunteers for flower garden
- Thank you letter request for new pond fence from county
- Mosquito Concern
- Snowed-In/Plow Concern
- Solicitor/Scam Artist/Burglary Casing Concern

In Depth

- Introduced the new members of the HOA.
- Held a vote and approved the use of vinyl fences, not just wood fences.
- Talked about progress with the Casino grant. Decided the two projects we want to do are:
 - 1. The fence line from the street, converting it all to a consistent vinyl, reimbursing homeowners on that street line that already made the change.
 - 2. The tot lot. Adding a concrete patio, some benches, and maybe a playground to it.
- HOA leadership said they will start enforcing violations, but given feedback from homeowners, there is no clear understanding of what the R&Rs are. Some are referring to the original 1987, and some are referring to more recent ones. In

addition, a definition of what the penalties are needs to be stated and certain policies may need to be reviewed. The board is going to update the website with the most recent, give everyone the most recent update that wants it physically and will get the penalties section and any outdated policies ironed out and amended at a later time.

- Talked about boats and RVs being in people's driveways. Currently a violation, yes, but public sentiment is that the meaning of it was to prevent people living out of them and prevent broken down or abandoned vehicles on or around people's property. If they are keeping them tidy, are on their legal driveway, it's not sticking out over the sidewalk, etc, it shouldn't be a problem. Consensus seems to be that how the house looks carries the ultimate weight. It would make more sense to make sure people don't have peeling paint on the outer face of their house or make sure they're shutters aren't falling off.
- Question raised if trees can be trimmed or planted again as there used to be some maintenance done by the city on trees between the road and sidewalk and many delivery or service vehicles have been hitting hanging branches that have left them looking ill-shaped.
- Concerns about grass. County will mow it for you and fine you if it gets above a certain height, but due to ticks and property values it is stressed to keep mowing regularly. What county number or form to call if the grass gets above a certain height will be included on our website soon so it's easy to find.
- Many of the green telephone cable boxes in the neighborhood aren't being used or have been getting hit by cars, plows, or just degrading over time. They either need to be removed or maintained. Bruce is going to talk to the companies to clean up.
- Talked about the three or so abandoned cars that have been cleaned up recently by the county. Going forward, the board may try to include the county ordinances on how long cars can be on the street without moving them on the website or as a reminder in the R&Rs. If necessary may include numbers or a form to call if a homeowner suspects a vehicle is abandoned.
- Long time ago, the association did not approve a gas line being brought into the homes due to cost. Given that electricity is on the rise and that neighboring communities have gotten it, it may be worthwhile to pursue soon. No action item set for this but will bring up later as multiple people need to claim they want it and need to see budgeting.
- Need 1-2 volunteers for the entrance-way flower gardens. Estimates put it at like \$200-300 per flower bed for 2 flower beds but seems a little expensive and would need the volunteers to maintain.

- Homeworker asked if HOA leadership could send a thank-you letter to the county for replacing the pond fences/gates and making it top notch.
- Mosquito concern brought up with the minor pond redesign the county or state did. The rocks create a little pond within the pond that doesn't look like it can be drained. Bruce is going to follow up with the county to find out why and if they can take a look.
- Usually the top 40 houses of the territory get snowed in because plows never make it up to that section. A resident found that calling the specific department of the county will do the trick. HOA leadership will include this information to the website should residents ever be snowed in and unable to leave.
- Concern about solicitors brought up by a homeowner. Concern brought to neighbors to let another neighbor near them know if you're going out of town, sign up with the USPS to do a mail hold, get cameras, and request that homeowners do not engage with solicitors. There are scam artists out there, especially in recent years, and good companies do not send out