

January 17, 2009 CCA Meeting Minutes

Present: 16 Carson residents in Bob Logue's garage, 1pm after pizza at noon.

The meeting started with the treasurer's report: Elisabeth Maier, treasurer, reported that we currently have in our account \$1485.14. This is after paying for producing and mailing the initial newsletter/flyer, paying the property taxes, and depositing donations generated at the last CCA meeting and donations generated from the newsletter/flyer.

An agenda for the meeting was created:

- Renewing Bob Logue's contract with the county for maintaining the road
- Newsletter
- Spring Projects
- Fire Department update
- Donated land update
- CCA's 501(c)3 status

Before moving on to discussing the topics on the agenda, several issues were raised. Elisabeth Maier passed around a letter to Qwest for us to sign requesting the company makes a high-speed internet option available in Carson. Greg Busick discussed issues he's encountered w/ Qwest: for DSL we would need to purchase a \$2000 "translator". Wild Blue, (another high speed internet provider) does work here, but doesn't provide enough megabytes for people who use the internet heavily. Greg has filed a complaint about being dissatisfied w/ Qwest. He proposed that if many of us file a complaint, we might be able to get Qwest to provide us with high-speed service. Rob Hughes and Mike Lindsay suggested that the new government might be interested in helping with these types of issues. One possibility would be to register a complaint w/ the public utilities program.

Another and separate issue to the agenda was raised. Jim Defibaugh inquired as to why we need to pay taxes on CCA property? The answer was because in order to be exempt from property taxes, an entity must have a federal level non-profit status, (501c3), and the CCA has only a state level non-profit status. People seemed interested in looking into pursuing a federal non-profit status for the CCA.

Bob Logue discussed renewing his contract for maintaining the South Carson Road. Last year the McBees, by taking the initiative with the county, got Bob's contract renewed. Bob potentially would like a lot of people to attend the county meeting to support him in renewing his contract for this year. He will keep us posted as to when and where if this becomes necessary. We also need to discuss getting our culverts cleaned and having new culverts put in where appropriate. Catherine Logue, Bob's wife, expressed that specific wording in the contract was necessary to ensure that the contract would not expect of Bob anything other than road surface work. Next, Bob suggested possibilities for us as a community to fix the ditch on Fox Hill by putting sage and/or pit run in it. Jim Defibaugh wants to go to a commission meeting with a group of people to force the county to resolve this problem. However, Bob said we would most likely end up needing to fix the ditch ourselves in the long run. Rob Hughes suggested putting rocks in it. Scott Stephens felt that sage and pit-run were really the way to go. Bob proposed removing trees on the west side of the road

to make the road wider, and then putting the trees in the ditch. There was some discussion about re-grading, but the concern is that that process would remove the base rock in that area and just leave mud. Rob also would like to go to the county Commissioner as a group, esp. since the West Rim Road will be paved soon and most likely increase traffic on South Carson Road. Bob said the commission *was* supposed to improve our road, and he will request a truck of sand for the Fox Hill problem. Jim wants to get a quote from Ken Drake for us to repair it ourselves. Jim offered to pay 50% since he has no faith in the county following through. Bob proposed that people throw some sage or tree trimmings, stems up, into the ditch to fill it in. Then perhaps he could crown the road, or the county could add material. However, the general feeling he conveyed is that we'll probably have to solve this problem ourselves and not rely on the county at all.

Elizabeth Brownrigg spoke about the newsletter, *Carson O Pinon!* and the need for volunteers and submissions for the first edition due to come out before the end of January. J Mehaffey, Judith Babka, Elisabeth Maier, and Catherine Logue said they would participate. Elisabeth said Parker Haynes would be willing to help Elizabeth format the columns on the computer. Greg Busick also said he could help with this. Jim brought up the issue of advertisers needing to be licensed to advertise whatever it is they are selling. Most people at the meeting felt it was not necessary given the size of Carson. There was brainstorming about what to put in the newsletter, as Scott Stephens expressed he receives very dry newsletters from another community and would like to have something lively to read in here in Carson. J would like to read about the community- what's going on in Carson residents' lives. Elizabeth would like to have a write-in column, not dissimilar to "Dear Abby". Barb Hughes suggested a gardening tips column, where people can give advice on planting and harvesting, timing, etc. Other people suggested a recipe section, a cartoon section, and interviews w/ long-time Carson residents, as well as creative writing submissions. Greg wants to publish pictures of how bad the South Carson Road really is right now with all the mud. Regarding advertising, Jerry Boxberger generally pays \$12 for a business card ad in other publications. Most people felt \$10 for a quarter page in the *Carson O Pinon!* would be more than fair.

Rob Hughes talked about the Spring Projects Committee, or rather, the need for one to take on the following projects come spring: 1) moving the rocks to form a clear boundary along the CCA property line and Jody's property line and 2) raising money and volunteers via the *Carson O Pinon* to pour the concrete floor and porch at the CCA Center, (Quonset). Bob introduced another discussion under this heading concerning erecting the greenhouse and starting a farmers' market- if these things are going to occur, the appropriate committee(s) need to meet and take action. According to Jim, a local source in Albuquerque could help us. If we're going to have a greenhouse, we actually need to put up the frame structure we already own. The greenhouse should be situated on the north side of Hwy 567 where water can be accessed from the Poco Loco store. The size of the greenhouse frame is approx. 30'x30'. Rob expressed concern about the cost of creating a foundation for the greenhouse and where that money would come from. Jerry wondered how many people would really use the greenhouse. Elisabeth said the farmers' market idea is a good one, and she has volunteered for that committee. It was suggested that we start w/ a Farmers' Market, then expand into a small greenhouse project if necessary, and then go on from there. Bob pointed out that the people who intend to use the greenhouse should erect it and finance it.

Regarding the status of the Carson Volunteer Fire Dept, Greg Busick stated that prior to moving forward we need to secure the land the Bissells are planning to donate because the firehouse will go on this piece of property. Bob said Erik Bissell is ready for the survey. Also, Erik wants to be sure to maintain all of their highway frontage, so the acre will be set back a bit and have appropriate access to the road. Bob described the boundaries of the parcel the Bissells intend to donate. Bob has also spoken w/ Rick Hill, another Carson land donor, who told Bob he knows an inexpensive surveyor. Rick has also said he will donate another 5 acres adjacent to the 5 he's already donated. Rob suggested we determine need prior to accepting any more land donations and incurring any more expenses. Bob stated we do need the Bissells' acre for the firehouse as it meets the fire marshal's specifications, but there is some confusion as to exactly what Erik wants/needs from the CCA in order to complete this donation. Bob, Elizabeth, and Greg agreed together to go speak with Erik the following day. Bob also said he needs to get Rick Hill's deed amendment registered. Rob volunteered to contact Larry Sterling, the surveyor. Bob also wants Rick to talk to Larry Sterling. John said we might need to get title searches for the donated properties, and that we need to have copies of those before we erect any buildings on any of the land.

J brought up a discussion about the length of the CCA meetings. Elizabeth said generally they did not last this long, (2 hours). Bob stated that as president, he wanted to give people a chance to speak their minds. Greg encouraged people to check out the website periodically, (www.carsonnewmexico.com), and read the info posted there so we don't have to repeat info at every meeting. The quarterly newsletter will also help alleviate this problem. John pointed out that part of the reason this particular meeting was running on was because several people previously agreed to perform certain tasks and then (admittedly) dropped the ball. Consequently, we've had to spend time today reorganizing to get those tasks done. He encouraged everyone in the future to completely follow through with what they commit to do, which up until the holiday season has actually been the case. Bob brought up that in the past, an effective way to have high attendance at meetings was to start out with a community potluck, say from noon till 3, then hold a meeting afterward for all who wanted to stay. This gave people a chance to mingle and come up with ideas before the actual meeting took place. We discussed various ways to hold meetings and attract people to them. The general consensus was to keep the meetings as streamlined as possible, with concise reports from the various committees. A potluck might be in order for the summer.

Concerning the CCA's obtaining a federal level non-profit status, (501c3), the question is if Rick Hill's team will be able to achieve this as he suggested in a prior meeting. Rob, Elisabeth, and Greg said it is a long and complex process. Rob proposed we create a committee specifically for this purpose; Greg said it should be headed up by a full-time Carson resident. This could feasibly be a subcommittee of the Carson Volunteer Fire Dept because one of the main reasons for having this type of tax-exempt status is to protect the money we collect for the fire dept. Evidently, the county has the right to use and distribute money collected by one fire department in the county to any other fire department as they see fit, unless that money is held by a separate entity. Greg will find out if we can protect these future donations to the CVFD simply as a state non-profit organization, which CCA already is.

The next Carson Volunteer Fire Dept meeting will be on Saturday, February 7, 10:00 am, Bob Logue's garage.

The next CCA meeting will be on Saturday, March 21st, at 4pm, at Bob Logue's garage.

Reminders for these meetings will be posted on the bulletin board and at the store approximately two weeks before their respective meeting dates. Attendance is welcomed and encouraged!

www.carsonnewmexico.com

DEADLINE: April 1st!!

We need submissions for the next *Carson O Pinon!*

Stories

Creative writing

Recipes

Gardening tips

Black and white art or cartoons

Questions for the advice column: "Ms. Liz Minds Your Biz"

(submissions will be kept anonymous)

Jokes

Miscellaneous info.

Please send submissions to Elizabeth Brownrigg:

egb@elizabethbrownrigg.com or PO Box 40, Carson 87517

Advertise your business in the next *Carson O Pinon!*

Full page- \$25.00

Half page- \$15.00

Quarter page- \$10.00

Please send ad copy and payment to:

Elizabeth Brownrigg

PO Box 40, Carson 87517

Make checks/money orders payable to "CCA". Cash is also accepted.