

Carson Community Association Board Meeting Minutes

Date & time: Friday September 3, 2021, 2.00 pm Friday

Venue: Art and Sharon Wilbur's House, 77 Jack Rabbit Run Rd, Carson

Present: *CCA Board of Directors:* Art Wilbur (*President*), Scott Freeman (*Vice President*), Jeremy Paine (*Treasurer*), Paul Green (*Secretary*), Jerry Boxberger, Rob Hughes, Veronica Zepeda; *Other:* Eng-Li Green (*Note-taker*)

Observers: Karen Boxberger, Elizabeth Brownrigg (*Former President*), Sharon Wilbur

Item 2. Approval of August 29, 2021, general meeting minutes: *The board voted unanimously in favor of a motion, proposed by Scott Freeman, seconded by Veronica Zepeda, to approve the minutes of the CCA general meeting, held on August 29, 2021.*

Item 3. Handover from previous administration: The items that need to be handed to the new board include: (1) articles of incorporation; (2) IRS determination letter; (3) IRS tax exempt application (Form 1023); (4) historic annual accounts; (5) checkbook; (6) donation records; (7) signed bylaws; (8) complete set of minutes (hard copy or electronic); (9) past tax returns; (10) the most recent member electronic address list; (11) the most recent member phone tree names and address; (11) keys to CCA quonset, post office box. Some of the above items have not been received and the board will continue to liaise with former CCA President Elizabeth Brownrigg to acquire these.

Item 4. Resolution on removal and addition of bank signatories: *The board voted unanimously in favor of a motion, proposed by Rob Hughes and seconded by Jeremy Paine, to pass the resolution to remove and supersede all earlier resolutions in respect of the signatories to the CCA checking account held at Hillcrest Bank, and to add three signatories from the new board: Art Wilbur (President), Scott Freeman (Vice President), Jeremy Paine (Treasurer).*

Item 5. Allocation of responsibilities: The new board members have read the extracts from the bylaws that outline the responsibilities of each board member.

Item 6. Priorities and allocated tasks: Board members will be reviewing a preliminary draft list that include: (1) Fall festival; (2) New community center; (3) CCA, FireWise, Carson Volunteer Fire District (CVFD) integration; (4) Developing / maintaining protocols for CCA to run smooth and effectively, in accordance with the bylaws, (5) Reviewing bylaws; (6) Developing communication channels; (6) Developing community cohesion; (7) Learning from CCA and community history; (8) Fundraising.

Further discussion on priorities:

Community center: One of Art Wilbur's primary goals is to get a new community center where people want to come. Rob Hughes received a revised estimate of \$8637.65 with tax for improving the road to the Quonset; CCA currently has about \$3000. CCA will begin to hash out ideas for a new community center to replace the quonset hut and improve the road, around which to focus fundraising activities for monetary and in-kind donations (materials, skills, time) and grant applications.

S Carson Road: Art Wilbur (AW) had a lengthy call with Jason Silver at Taos Public Works who clarified that S Carson Rd is not legally a county road; it came into being because people moved in along the road. Acquiring county road status so that it can be improved and maintained to be usable in the event of wildfire evacuation will require CCA working strategically with the County Commissioner and other entities. AW is lining up six entities including District 3 Commissioner, fire marshal, management personnel, to meet at Carson Café/Store for breakfast, before driving them down S Carson Rd to show them the importance and urgency of this project. CCA board members should, whenever possible, attend Commissioner meetings, first Tuesdays of each month, to increase awareness of Carson issues.

Fire evacuation plan: Scott Freeman touched briefly on the main points in a preliminary fire evacuation plan for Carson: **Community and environs:** We're at 7000ft elevation, in the middle of a 1.5 million acre national forest, designated for recreational uses, containing fuels in the form of pinyon, spruce, ponderosa, with underbrush fuel ladders that jump and set trees on fire. Around 200 residents, median average age 64 years, live on or adjacent to S Carson Rd. **State of road:** The road is dirt and gravel, graded a couple of times a year, and weather variable so it's questionable whether residents can drive regular vehicles as water creates deep channels. The widest part is 19ft where a truck can safely travel, narrowest is 11ft. **CVFD status:** CVFD has 14 personnel (right now down to four people), SUV command vehicle, 500-gal fire truck, 500-gal brush rig, 2000-gal water tender, 2000-gal dump truck for relay water drops. **Road improvements needed:** At a minimum, a fire lane has to be 24ft wide (not including drainage etc) so two fire trucks can pass, with 100ft turnaround every 2 miles and at the end of the road, and knox boxes across locked gates. Without improvements CVFD will be unable to do anything in the event of a wildfire. 556 needs to be 24 ft wide for passing lane, firebreak, emergency services, alternative ingress/egress for residents. **Disaster accountability:** A complete evacuation list is critical, with one or two gatekeepers of the

list, which must be kept private. CVFD needs the ability to send notices, and coordinate tracking of evacuation with CCA and FireWise. Bulk texting will narrow down CVFD door-to-door visits. Useful options include a drone to check if people are home and walkie-talkies, with separate channels assigned for civilians and personnel. The goal of pre-disaster planning is: save lives, save property, save money.

Item 7. Communications developments: Email system using MailChimp will be established to manage the sending and monitoring of emails to the community. Firewise emails will now be sent out to the CCA community as a whole. The board has a new email address CCA@carsonnm.org. Board members can each have their own email address on this domain if they so wish. An existing website CarsonNM.org will be brought back online and developed into an official CCA website for an annual cost of about \$70 to cover hosting and web domain fees. The CCA will build a new bulletin board, half of which will be dedicated to CCA use, with a maintenance schedule. CCA will post two permanent notices on the bulletin board: (1) CVFD's wildfire evacuation outreach and (2) a call to new residents to get in touch. The OPinon newsletter will become more frequent. The Carson Network will run as an independent partner of CCA.

Item 8. Fall festival: *Date and venue:* Sunday October 10 (instead of October 3), 11am–4pm, on the grounds of the Carson Café/Store. ***Organization:*** Vonnie Zepeda as general manager for whole festival will recruit people and/or committees for various activities eg Sharon Wilbur (bake sale); Craig Osen (meat procurement); Critter (music), and will invite interested people to attend a meeting on September 21, 6pm, at Carson Café/Store after it closes—notices will be posted on the bulletin board, store signboard, via email, and a café sign-up sheet. Pamphlets will be handed out to vehicles on Rte 567 to new people who are unaware of CCA and CVFD activities. ***Possible fun activities:*** Various contests eg horseshoe throwing (as an ongoing stationary event), with timed rotations of arm wrestling, log sawing with bandsaw, log splitting, archery (positioned in a cordoned area round the back for safety); kids' corner with face painting, easy-ups (ask community to bring); dump tank with beach balls and firehose; craft vendors (10% of profits to CCA) and demonstrations; educational booths; music throughout the event, with small stipends or tips for bands. When the list is finalized, a space allocation and layout map will be drawn up. ***Food & drinks:*** CCA will sell food (regular, salmon, vegan burgers) and Carson Café/Store will sell drinks and beer with a one-day \$15 license to extend sales beyond their perimeter. ***Tasks:*** (1) Mow grass in front of and to side of store one or two weeks before the event (Mike Lindsay); (2) Get raffle tickets printed

(ask Peter Allen); (3) Get raffle prizes (Peter Allen has last year's list as a starting point); (4) Sell raffle tickets (recruit as many people as possible; Peter Allen and Eric DeVries would be especially good). (5) Finalize list of activities, prepare map of grounds, draw up timetable of activities. (6) Email community with festival details and a request to bring portable tables, chairs, tarps; (7) Slide porta-potty over from CVFD. (7) Send out request for donations (CCA has already received a \$500 pledge), with a clear goal of building up funds for community enhancement and development such as getting a new community center built, with a good road. **Parking:** Get permission to use field between store and fire station, leaving sufficient turnaround zone for CVFD. **Contingencies: Safety:** Ask people to sign waivers, provide good supervision, and take precautions such as roping off certain hazardous activity areas. **Covid status:** Proceed with planning on the assumption a complete shutdown is unlikely.

A motion, proposed by Jerry Boxberger and seconded by Rob Hughes, that the CCA Fall Festival be held on Sunday October 10, 11am–4pm, with Veronica Zepeda as general manager, was passed unanimously.

A motion, proposed by Art Wilbur, seconded by Rob Hughes, to hold the Fall Festival planning meeting at Carson Café on Tuesday September 21, 6pm, was passed unanimously.

Community event: A tentative plan to hold a CCA “open house” event, possibly three weeks after the Fall Festival or later might clash with the Christmas Potluck. As alcohol is served at the Christmas Potluck, it will have to be in the quonset even though the tight space and poor acoustics make it a less-than-ideal venue.

Meeting adjourned: *A motion, proposed by Jerry Boxberger, seconded by Rob Hughes, to adjourn the meeting at 4pm was passed unanimously.*