

RCHCA meeting 24 May 2012

President John Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm with over 100 individuals attending, all of whom but one were dues paying members.

John pointed out that we presently have three meetings per year (winter, spring, and fall) and questioned whether we might be able to get by with two regular meetings. As this would require a change to our bylaws it was just brought up as something to be considered and not for action at this time.

It was proposed that the dues should be raised from their present \$35 per year (a figure that has been constant for several years) to \$40. This was because we have had negative cash flow in the last couple of years. It is not because of pending litigation which will be funded separately from our treasury. It was moved and seconded that the dues be raised to \$40 starting in 2013. There was some discussion. The motion was passed with one dissenting vote.

John stated that RCHCA has filed action with the State Board of Education opposing the selection process whereby our park was selected as the site for the new middle school. The protest is based on the fact that the selection process was severely flawed - not properly evaluating issues such as cost, environmental impact, transportation issues, etc. This is an administrative litigation.

It is not known at this time whether Ike Leggatt, County Executive, will sign off on the site selection. In either case, it is not reviewable. There is litigation risk and financial risk to the county and also it is unclear if a school at Rock Creek Hills will be sufficient to handle projected growth.

RCHCA has proposed litigation against the Department of Natural Resources over the issue of preservation of open space. Since this park received POS (Preservation of Open Space) funds, this park cannot be converted to non-park uses unless there is "greater public benefit." And also, if you take the land, you have to replace it with something in the same "community." Our lawyer, Bill Chen, is charging a \$200/hour rate; his usual rate is \$300/hour. The argument will be that the land needs to be replaced before it is converted.

There was discussion as to what other actions might be taken regarding more public pressure, more press involvement, pressure on politicians, etc. etc.

A motion was made for the Board of RCHCA to continue litigation. This motion was carried unanimously. Numerous residents have already made or this evening made contributions to the litigation fund.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05.