

# **DPPOA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

## **DEC. 13, 2003**

Board members present: John McCall, Bill Quinn, Craig Sellers, Rich Haag, John Gray, Carol Weinberg, Bob Pattison, and Jim Reardon. Office staff Donna Raymond.  
Absent: Rich Green

The meeting began with an invocation by Carol Weinberg  
There were no newcomers to recognize.

Question, is there an agenda? Answer, only a brief one from the newsletter.

Review of minutes: The minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's report: Financial summaries for both DPPOA and STD 2 were presented by Rich Haag. DPPOA budget year is July 1 to June 30. STD @ budget is from January 1 to December 31. Questions were raised about over expenditures in line items 1100, 1500 and 2000. 1100 is Staff office Manager, 1500 is staff benefits, training, and travel. 2000 is office rent. It was explained when the budget was originally proposed the staff position was based on 20 hours per week. The actual hours worked have been 30 to 40 hours per week. Len Addiss explained STD over expenditures was charged to both headings to lessen the impact of the overages in the quarterly reports to the County. The county was informed of the changes. STD 2 for 2004 will also have these deficiencies because of under budgeting. STD 3 will correct this with a change in budget.

Mrs. Randall asked if there are any budgeted funds for defense against lawsuits brought by a homeowner over use of 401 Lake Drive as commercial office space or a homeowner who might be rightfully turned down by the home owners association with covenants to have a commercial use of their property.

John Gray answered, "He and John McCall have spoken with our attorney and we are not violating the covenants, however we are still consulting with him on this matter." Mrs. Randall said this is really not my question. The question is, "Is there money in the budget to defend a lawsuit?" John replied, "There's \$3000 in the STD budget" Len Addiss added there is \$1000 in the DPPOA budget.

There were questions about what training has been taken. John Gray explained he had taken a Smart Growth course, which deals in part with the impact of state regulations on land use. It has been very helpful in dealing with the county. Carol Weinberg reported she and Donna Raymond took a one-day seminar on how to deal with various agencies throughout the county. They learned how to negotiate through various county agencies we must deal with. There are no plans at this time for any further training seminars this year.

John Gray reported we might join a national trade association of homeowners associations. The benefits are being reviewed.

Numerous members questioned moving salary from 1100 to 1500 and not showing the deficit where it belongs. The answer was given as to how these changes had been reported to the County and no attempt was made to hide the expenses. It was requested we approach the County to request changes in the present STD 2 budget to reflect these expense changes.

Motion by John Zalusky, "That financial report be changed to show where actual average of salary to 1100 and not 1500. It was seconded by Mrs. Randall. All were in favor except 3 nays.

Tony Baratta suggested future budgets break 1500 down into sub areas separately.

Maria Miller asked for a storm repair breakdown because of over expenditures under item 4010. It was reported \$17500 was spent for snow removal and the remainder for hurricane cleanup. The question was asked why some of the \$56,733 under roads in the DPPOA budget couldn't have been used for storm cleanup. It was explained that the DPPOA budget money is budgeted for repairs to roads this spring. Members were reminded that the DPPOA budget ends at the end of June.

John Zalusky asked how much we saved by having Bar<sup>nada</sup>ada, Dogwood and Chestnut under the county. An exact figure could not be given, however it was noted the county did plow all these roads.

John Zalusky asked how many dues paying members DPPOA has now. Donna Raymond reported approximately 750 of 1200 property owners. John Gray discussed Association dues for 2004. The board recommends continuing at \$15. Voice vote had all in favor except one nay.

Nominating committee, John Gray and Carol Weinberg are soliciting members for the nomination committee. They will seek candidates to run for the board of directors. These candidates will be announced at the March meeting.

Len Addiss reminded the board he had a problem with his biography being changed and he hopes the board has made provisions to correct this problem.

Lusby Town Center, bike paths, road problems. Discussion was headed by John Gray and Carolyn Ebel. Topics included getting bike/walking paths to the town center. A pending meeting with Michael Jackson the state bike path person was discussed. The Southern Maryland connector including its possible route, bike and walking paths along it and how far into the distance the construction might be. Congestion on both Rousby Hall road from Drum Point to the high school and the high school to route 765 and the related dangers/traffic problems were also discussed. How DPPOA members could be updated information about various topics discussed was asked. Computer owning members were asked to go to DPPOA.ORG the organizations web site.

FEMA John Gray reported we have been advised to not make any permanent repairs until FEMA decides what course of action they will take. STDs are new to FEMA claims and they are proceeding slowly. John McCall and Craig Sellers have been very instrumental in processing our claim and deserve a lot of thanks.

Don Randall mentioned a letter to Senator McKulski concerning STDs. It is to be posted on our web site.

Shel Samuels stated the County could make a direct grant to DPPOA for repairs to the Lake Charming causeway. He advises we contact the County.

Curt Larson asked if FEMA was encouraging STDs to make direct applications.

John McCall responded FEMA doesn't make direct response to DPPOA. They go through MEMA and it goes to Calvert County who deals with us.

Bob Pattison reported going with John Gray to attend a presentations on infrastructures at the University of Maryland. The presentation dealt with Drum Point. It was very well and accurately presented By the Civil Engineering class. There was lengthy discussion of what the class has and can do to assist DPPOA as a class project at no cost to the community. A previous study they did was valued @ \$500,000. The storm water management plan proposal they wrote could be used to apply for grants. John Gray reported on a task force investigating relatively in expensive ways to reduce nitrogen from septic tanks getting into Bay waters. Don Randall reported on STDs needs. He included a history of STDs, attempts to change by-laws to fund needed work, and what has been done now.

Carol Weinberg reminded all that a STD is a tax and not dues or a covenant fee. It is a tax imposed on each and all of us and a separate issue from dues. It is collected and administered by the county.

John Gray requested a non-binding straw vote of members present to see if they would support STD 3 at \$239/year. The vote was 37 to 2 in favor.

Following discussion it was reported a proposal is being circulated to allow members to vote on expenditures. A counter proposal will be circulated by board members and residents in favor of STD3 for presentation to the County Commissioners. Members were requested to sign the proposal. We were reminded the benefits to Drum Point go to all Drum Point not just one side of Rousby Hall.

Carol Weinberg requested articles for the newsletter go to Donna Raymond or Rich Haag. Maria Miller asked to have a reminder of the leash law included permanently in the newsletter.

The meeting adjourned @ 11:52am.