



## COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

### CEC MEETING SUMMARY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014

The CEC held a meeting at 10:00 am on Thursday, December 11, 2014. The following members were in attendance: Sue Callaway, Chair; Donna Farrow; George Junkin; Diann Nazarian; Kent Stephan; Bobbe Stephan; Pat Weisgerber; and Don Chrobot, Public Works. Also attending were Ed Nazarian and Frank Weisgerber.

#### CEC Member Comments

- Led by Kent Stephan, the group proposed several different ideas and questions that reflect CEC interests for the upcoming survey being prepared by the Planning Commission and Town Council. The group reviewed Kent's well-prepared list of "Comments on the SB Homeowner Survey." Sue Callaway will present the Committee's ideas at the Town Council Workshop on December 18<sup>th</sup>. The following is a list of the proposed ideas:
  - ✓ The Town's appearance has improved during the past five years.
  - ✓ The Town should place a priority on sustaining its landscaping during drought conditions.
  - ✓ The Town should continue to engage property owners' contributions even if the town will need to maintain it in years to come.
  - ✓ The better the Town looks the more enjoyable it is to live/stay here.
  - ✓ How well the Town looks affects property value.
  - ✓ How well the Town looks affects rental income.
  - ✓ I support the following Town-sponsored activities or events:
    - Movie nights on the beach
    - July 4<sup>th</sup> Float in Bethany Beach Parade and through town of South Bethany
    - South Bethany Team Plunge on January 1<sup>st</sup>
    - South Bethany Boat Parade through canal network.

-Would you like to see more activities? If yes, please suggest.

- ✓ The Town Council places a high priority on property values in general.
  - ✓ It is important for the Town to focus on property maintenance.
  - ✓ At the beginning of the survey, respondents should identify whether they own property on bayside or Oceanside; whether they own rental property, seasonal use, or permanent residence; and if they plan to move permanently to South Bethany within the next 1-3 years, 3-5 years, 5-10 years.
  - ✓ The survey should be consistently worded positively.
  - ✓ Research the use of online survey distribution with some paper surveys distributed to those who receive the Zephyr in paper format. The majority of CEC members supported using an online survey.
- The group discussed the future need to upgrade the current holiday lighting to a commercial grade to better withstand the weather elements and improve quality. Don Chrobot is gathering prices for several recommended styles for the FY 16 Budget. The group favored the "Snow Family," the "Snow Flakes," and the Christmas trees.
  - The Welcome Signs will be removed in January for cleaning, sanding, repair and painting. The group discussed color ideas and agreed to keep the blue; change the yellow welcome, change the dune grass color to some kind of green/brown and stay with blue background.

### **Update on Ocean Drive Art Boards**

- The Art Boards were removed on December 1 for cleaning and storage during the winter months. Don reported that the boards were in good condition.
- Gallery One presented the Ocean Drive Art Board Initiative flyers to their members at a December 3 meeting. It was reported that several artists indicated interest in participating. Follow-up with Gallery One will continue in January. Additional marketing and follow-up efforts will take place in January to individuals and to SB property owners via an Email News Update in early 2015.

### **Review of FY 16 CEC DRAFT Budget**

The CEC reviewed the FY16 draft budget. Sue pointed out that the Town Council recommended moving the mulch dollars from the CEC budget and placing those costs within the Public Works budget. No additional changes were made at this time.

## **Discussion of SB Little Library 2! East Side Location**

The appropriate location for the SB Little Free Library 2 on the East Side was discussed. The group will be assessing locations such as Division Street and South 1<sup>st</sup> Street as there is not adequate space along Ocean Drive, especially during the summer months. Martha and John Fields have agreed to serve as the library's stewards.

## **Update on Adopt-A-Canal/Road End Program**

Currently four additional adoptions are pending for the spring: 1) Canal End to the left of the Anchorage Forebay; W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street Road End; Front area of Anchorage forebay; and Canal end between Layton and Godwin along Route 1. Letters will be sent to property owners in January. In response to Ed Nazarian's question about the neighbor's trash receptacle adjacent to the W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street road end, Pat Weisgerber will review its location when creating the landscape design for the road end. In discussing future adopted canal ends in the Anchorage Forebay area it was noted that the surrounding grassy area has become an area frequently used by dogs. The group agreed that it would be prudent to post two dog waste signs at that site.

## **Discussion: Safety and Security in South Bethany - Street Lighting in SB – Canal Drive? Anywhere else?**

In response to recent safety and security issues and to learning of the availability of Delmarva Power's free-standing decorative street light options, the group agreed to further research the idea. Donna Farrow, who resides on W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street noted how "pitch dark" it is along Canal Drive. Exploration will include obtaining specific costs and design styles prior to presenting information to Town Council or property owners. Don Chrobot will follow-up with Delmarva Power to obtain more specific information.

## **Future Meeting Dates**

The CEC will not meet in January, but will meet in February. A date for the meeting has not been confirmed. The meeting adjourned for the annual CEC holiday party with staff.