

Dunmore Community Association Emergency Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2021

WebEx Meeting hosted by Nicole

Present: Nicole Johnson, Jody Phillips, Dawn Day, Scott Plouffe, Jenna Riess, Amy Edmonstone, Olivia Whenham, Alyssa Stork

Meeting called to order by Nicole at 7:45pm

New Business:

Access to rink parking area impeded by chain Discussion – All

Some community members are upset that the chain is blocking access to the rink parking area. A Facebook thread on the subject is getting increasingly heated. Most DCA board members have been contacted with people on both sides of the issue, some wanting it taken down, others thinking it should remain.

Nicole asked if anyone knew the history of the chain, how it started and on what terms? Scott advised the chain has been in place for upwards of 3 years but this is the first time it has been a widespread issue to his knowledge. Blocking the area was originally intended to provide a window for rink maintenance to proceed without interruption, and to prevent vandalism and illicit/illegal activities at night. The blocks were donated by Inland Concrete, the chain was donated by Sandy. The sign was added by residents to make the chain visible at night so no-one would drive into the chain and get hurt or damage their vehicle.

The residents that live near the rink are the same volunteers who maintain and flood the rink. This is why they have keys to the chain. It appears that over time, removing the chain daily and putting it back up has become onerous and unrealistic for volunteers, especially when vehicles can park in the front lot and just walk right in. Discussed whether it is fair to put that responsibility on volunteers, and whether this should be a paid position or rolled into the summer grounds maintenance contract. If the task was put out to tender there would be accountability and recourse if it was not being performed consistently.

Agreement from board that sign "Do Not Enter" would deter people from feeling welcome in the area. Unanimous agreement that sign needs to change.

Discussed creating visual sight-lines to the area as a deterrent by removing some of the lilac row. The area is attractive for sexual behavior, drug use, and vandalism because it is completely hidden and dark. Scott advised that a skid steer won't be enough, and we could approach the County to see if they will assist with their back-hoe. Also discussed putting in an overhead parking light as we already have power in the area.

Discussed need for chain to protect the DCA's assets (rink, shack, ball diamond, park). We are planning to remove/replace the shack this fall, so at that point, the new asset will need to be protected from vandalism. Agreement that once improvements start being made in the area, we will put the chain back in place to protect them.

There is an overall lack of awareness in the community of the DCA's responsibilities and relationship with the County. There is confusion about who is responsible for what, and there seems to be very little knowledge in the community that the DCA cares for and operates the East and West side Parks. Similarly, it has not been communicated that the DCA leases the park areas (among other areas) and has full decision-making power for how they are managed.

Discussed lack of communication mechanism with the community at large. Agreement that the DCA needs to create a method for communicating these things so everyone has the right information. Discussed creation of website again. Nicole reminded group of DCA e-mail created for banking and utilities communication. Board agreed that while FaceBook is not the official medium that we want to communicate from, we should release a statement on behalf of the DCA to answer some questions, address concerns, and let people know what is going to be done. It was agreed to be appropriate in this case because FaceBook is the platform on which this specific issue is being discussed. We also agreed to put the DCA e-mail on the post so community members can reach us directly with feedback and concerns.

Unanimous consent that the chain should not be put back in position until communication lines with the community are established, proper signage is obtained, and a paid position is established.

Short-Term Actions:

1. Remove the chain and sign blocking entry to the rink lot (Scott)
2. Inform the volunteer residents adjacent to the park/rink of this change (Scott)
3. Remove all or some of the lilac row to create visibility into the rink parking area (Community Work-Bee May 1st)
4. Draft statement from DCA to be posted in the Dunmore Neighborhood FB group, add DCA e-mail (Nicole & Jenna)

Long-Term Actions:

1. Assess activity and any complaints or concerns that arise from having the chain down in the coming months
2. Obtain signage that clearly defines vehicle access hours to rink lot
3. Define a scope of work and put out to tender in the community to remove/replace chain daily once new assets are in place

Motion: Olivia made motion to accept and implement Short Term and Long Term Actions.

2nd by Alyssa – passed

Nicole adjourned meeting at 8:31pm

Next meeting: Wednesday April 14, 7:00 at Cypress Council Chamber