



Castlewood Property Owners Association

Newsletter

March, 2013

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for the residents of Castlewood subdivision was held on Sunday, February 24, 2013. Thank you to our 18 homeowners who attended. Gino's did a wonderful job of hosting!

We had 3 positions open for the Board and one person who requested to run. A vote was taken and Christine McCulloch was elected to serve. Pat Ballweg again volunteered to be appointed to a 1 year term, and Pam Kelly volunteered at the annual meeting to be appointed and will serve a one year term. The Board for 2013 will be as follows: Christine McCulloch, President 864-9132, Dave Nolen, Vice President, 440-7068, Tom Caco, Secretary, 789-2800, Pat Ballweg, Treasurer, 865-1888 and, Board Member at Large Pam Kelly - ARC Chairman. Thank you to John Greene as he leaves the Board, your hard work was appreciated.

The budget passed for \$34,600. This will come to a \$200.00 assessment per home based on 173 homes. This will allow us to actively pursue a capital project of a replacement sign at the park or a pavilion. Last year the Board decided to print a list of Vendor payments at the meeting instead of the Balance sheet & it was presented at the meeting with the proposed Budget this year.

Topics discussed at the meeting included moving the date of the meeting from a Sunday to a time during the week which will allow homeowners to attend religious services and other events which occur on Sundays. There were no objections and we will explore venues and dates for next year. Some advantages to a time during the week include attending on the way home from work, having a public place such as the Town Hall available at no or minimal cost, and not allowing our Annual Meeting to conflict with the Oscars. We anticipate it will still be the end of February. The By-laws say the annual meeting should be held the last Sunday of February at 7 pm, but they also say if it does not occur on that date, it does not absolve us from having it a different date.

Much discussion at the annual meeting was over the proposed Safe Routes to School Federal Grant. This is an important item which will affect us in the future and are asking for everyone to join in being vocal to the Town of Dyer on where we stand. The Town of Dyer has received a grant from the Federal government entitled Safe Routes to School. The grant puts sidewalks from neighborhoods to schools for children to have a safe path to get to school especially along busy streets. The proposed grant will put a sidewalk in from the entrance of Castlewood Drive along the south corridor of Lincoln highway to connect to Calumet thereby connecting to Kohler. **A study has been done which says the turn lane into Castlewood Drive would have to be removed in order to complete this project.** The study states the turn lane is not in compliance with a true turn lane because the length of the turn lane is not long enough to meet criteria. It has come out that no one remembers when the turn lane was established, nor whether it was ever approved as existing. At a recent Town Hall meeting, discussion was made over whether it is a legal turn lane and the impact it will have if it is removed to put in a sidewalk. There is not enough room currently where the sidewalk could be placed. Your Board members attended two Town Hall meetings and placed objections to the

Christine McCulloch - President 864-9132 • Dave Nolen - Vice President 440-7068 •

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Pam Kelly- ARC Chairperson 865-6962

turn lane being removed without a light being installed. The lot directly north on Lincoln highway has been purchased by Pops to build and relocate to and will include a drive through. This increase in traffic will impact Castlewood, Carriage Oaks and Castlevue. We need your input and help to insure a viable alternative is put in place.

Some things to consider:

- 1) If a sidewalk is put in place as the plan currently stands, the turn lane will be removed.
- 2) A traffic study done states a light is not warranted.
- 3) One alternative is to ask Meyers' Castle to allow the sidewalk to encroach on their property which would involve relocating their fence, and the effort involved in that is time sensitive since the grant will expire if a plan is not in place in a timely manner.
- 4) The Dyer Police Department Chief of Police David Hein spoke with us at the Town Hall meeting and expressed concern over the removal of the turn lane also. The police department is working with Vanessa Nolen, Board member Dave Nolen's wife, on trying to compile data on accidents at the intersection. Vanessa drove Lincoln highway from the Illinois border to Merrillville and could find no streets entering into a subdivision without a turn lane or a light which had speed limits posted as high as Highway 30 does along there.

Town Council Representative and Castlewood resident Connee Trepton has been instrumental in keeping us informed as much as possible. The Board has discussed putting forth a petition to be signed by Castlewood, Carriage Oaks and Castlevue residents to ask for a light if the turn lane is removed or to have a contingent approach the owners of the Castle to allow the sidewalk to cross behind the fence on the corner. **WE NEED YOUR INPUT AND HELP** to ensure the right thing is done for our community. As more information becomes available we will pass it along, but please keep in mind we need everyone to be a voice in this matter, **not just the CPOA Board.**

We are asking as many homeowners as possible to attend the Town Council meeting on March 14, 2013 at 6 pm. If you know anyone who lives in Castlevue or Carriage Oaks **please** let them know about the meeting and ask them to attend. The subject of the sidewalk is on the agenda as is the issue of repaving King's Court (street contract 3), which is in dire need of repair. We are the ninth item on the agenda, if you can't make it exactly at 6, it will still matter that we have a show of force to ensure the best thing is done for us.

Copied from Town of Dyer Council agenda

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Nies Contract Agreement
2012 Street Contracts 3 & 4
Babe Ruth Donation
Turn Lane – Castlewood Drive
Awarding of Landscape Bids
Abandoned RR acquisition
Pay request #8 – 2012 Street Project

X. CITIZENS INPUT- This is where we can be vocal!!!

Capital Projects

Future capital projects were discussed at the Annual meeting including replacing the sign at the park, installing a pavilion at the park, planting water lilies and cattails to prevent erosion to the retention pond and installing a fence along the sides of the front entry. Pam Kelly has volunteered to be on a committee to explore these options. Please contact us if you are willing to serve on a committee to help us with our projects.

If you have any ideas in which to better the Castlewood community, we welcome your input. As always, volunteers to implement these projects are most welcome!

Hospitality Lights

Please be reminded all hospitality lights must be functioning to go on at dusk and off at dawn. If your light is not working and you need to replace it, we have found a replacement which only requires taking off the top not the entire light head. Please contact us for the options available.

Garbage Ordinance

The Town has passed an ordinance which says containers cannot be placed outside no sooner than 6:00pm the night before and must be returned to storage no later than 8:00pm on the pick-up day. The town also now requires that **trash containers... shall be stored so as not to be visible from the street unless the size of the property and location of the home on the lot prohibits the same.** The entire contents of the ordinance can be found on the Town of Dyer website or contact the Town of Dyer at 219-865-6108.

Garage Sale

The annual Garage sale will be held on Friday, June 7th and Saturday, June 8th in keeping with the odd years weekend/even years weekday decision voted on in 2009. Thank you to Tom Gadus for running the event in 2012 and volunteering to run it in 2013.

Coyotes

Be on the lookout for coyotes! We have had reports of coyotes roaming the neighborhood. One homeowner had a pack of three in their yard and one had them on their deck. Be watchful of your pets even if they are in your yard. Tell your children they are not dogs and they should not try to approach them. If you see any call animal control, they can humanely capture and release them.

A Castlewood Website

Homeowner Laurie Reyna volunteered at our annual meeting to create a complimentary website for us so we can post pertinent information for our homeowners to have access to at their convenience. We will keep you posted as it develops!! Thank you Laurie!!

Ask the Board

If you have a question which pertains to our Castlewood Community, please send those questions to our e-mail at CastlewoodBoard@aol.com or contact a board member listed on the first page.

Save A Tree Be Green

Give us your e-mail so we can send you information and newsletters electronically!!