



Notes from the President:

This letter is long overdue. There were hopes that I'd be able to announce our next meeting or have a more complete discussion on what is going on currently, but I can't put this off any longer. There are so many things that have been going on, I'm going to try to be brief as I touch on them.

Covid-19

As you know, information changes almost daily. We've had constant communication with our board members and leaders in the community. Our opinion, as a group, has been that we want to follow whatever best practices are in place, whether we agree with them or not. The parks were closed when Rockford Park District posted their parks. The pond will remain closed until the Health Department advises the rules around permitting (see more information below).

The requirements being provided for opening of items may require too much time and money for our small organization. Many of the requirements/responsibilities are being placed on the organization and not on individuals, so we can't just tell people to "use their judgement." We are constantly evaluating those changes and seeing if we can do similar items to open our amenities. The goal is to get our common areas open again.

At this time, I am happy to report that we have had no complaints for the decisions we have made. I can't stress how good I feel about that. As a volunteer organization, it can be very taxing when people are not supporting you. Thank you so much for understanding even if you may want things to be open – we all do!

Pond Opening Party – Postponed/Canceled

Why? The pond is regulated as a public beach and requires a permit from the Health Department. Since the party revolves around the opening of the pond and getting together with neighbors, unfortunately this event is currently canceled.

Will the pond open? The main decision going forward is looking at how much it is going to cost to open the pond and the rules provided to us to obtain our permit. Many don't realize that the rules posted at the pond are provided to us by the state – violations to those rules could cause us to lose our ability to operate the pond. Once we are allowed to, it is not an overnight process even during a normal year.

When will we know? We likely won't be making any decisions about the pond until we have the rules we need to enforce. We know that the pond is our most used resource and will do our best to open if it makes sense, but we may be forced to leave it closed if we can't follow the rules. If we do that, we will use that money to continue the enhancements we have been doing throughout the neighborhood.

Dues

This relates to Covid as well, but deserves its own section. Please reach out to us if you have any concerns over paying your dues this year. Due to the current economic situation, we have not assessed any late fees for the 2019 billing session at this time. This only applies to the current billing for those in otherwise good standing. We need to document these situations to remain consistent on our billing practices. Please reach out to the treasurer or myself if you need to discuss.

Maintenance



For the past 2 years, I have been prioritizing and planning additional maintenance when our budget allowed. We've taken on quite a few projects this year and can already say that we have made progress on the leaking pond dam, the washed-out wall in Weymouth Park (and sink holes) and the Tennis Courts in Haddon.

We will continue to assess our needs with the available time and budget to improve the aesthetics, safety and amenities within our neighborhood. We are following the plan set out by the board in 2019.

Closing thoughts

I want to close this letter on a good note. One of my goals as President has been to lead by example and just try to show people what a little time and effort can do. Our neighborhood is moving in the right direction. We've had more people volunteering to help with events. We've had some people donate extra money towards the things that mean the most to them. We've had neighbors offer landscaping items they were going to pay to dispose of – making a win-win for both of us. We've had people propose projects and take on researching them for us. And we continue to see increased turnout at social events.

I get to hear the most feedback – many people provide encouragement and thank me for what I am doing. I'd like to encourage others to do the same for the other people helping out. Thank the person that decorated their house with hearts/stained-glass/sidewalk chalk or the person picking up trash on their walk. Thank the neighbor that trims the tree on Spring Brook that makes it hard to see every year. Thank those that tell you what your kids have been up to (even if you wished they didn't because it wasn't good). Thank our maintenance group that does more than I can ask!

I hope to be able to provide more definitive plans as time goes on. As always, reach out with questions and I will do my best to get back to you timely. If you are interested in taking on a project, let me know and we will see if we can figure out a plan. **Fair warning** - it'll probably cost you some free time, but its worth it!

Respectfully,

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