

McLean Hamlet Citizens, Inc.
August 7, 2006
Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Miguel Avila, Charlotte Basset Zimmerman, Doug Colvard, Dick Coogan, Jane Edmondson, Betty Grimes, Catherine Hollan, Jack Kalish, Jane Kalish, Benjamin Leung, Scott Schlegel, Linda Somogyi, and Paul Wieland. Absent: Rinaldo Campana, and Hugh Neighbour.

President Paul Wieland called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at the home of Charlotte Basset Zimmerman.

Minutes of the July meeting are being edited.

Treasurer Benjamin Leung distributed his report of activity through July 31 and noted the recent \$1,865 landscaping bill was taken out of this year's payments although it was for work done last year.

Newsletter: Joe Parisi had pneumonia last week but now has all articles and has added photographs. In addition to articles by Board and committee members, there are articles by Paul Rodgers on the origin of Hamlet street names, one by Ron Jackson, 1st vice-president of McLean Citizens Association (MCA), on why to join that group, and one by Mary Kinniburgh about the clean-up of McLean Hamlet Park by volunteers.

Picnic: Ponies, child ID, games, and other attractions are set. The board discussed inviting elected officials and candidates. Some expressed displeasure with politicking, others liked having a chance to talk with them. A vote was taken whether to invite or not: it passed 8 for, 4 opposed. All of Joan Dubois' staff will also be invited because of their help and responsiveness. Jane Edmondson will invite the officials and candidates.

Falstaff Park: Betty reported that the tables and bike rack have been installed. The park is being used mostly when it is less hot. Scott and Betty are planning to organize the first annual play equipment clean-up to be held next spring. The tetherball nylon cord keeps falling off and the ball disappears. The park is being well maintained by its users.

Traffic Survey: Dick reported that a speed survey using "stealth" strips (two 6-inch pads 20 yards apart) was conducted July 26 through August 3 for 187 hours. They were placed near the top of a hill on Falstaff. 595 cars were recorded with an average speed of 26 mph, only 5 exceeding 39 mph. The police take this as evidence of little or no speeding problem. A Hamlet resident had asked why we should not try to get speed bumps/humps. Dick reported that the criteria for bumps/humps requires 600-4,000 vehicles per day traffic (we are well under this threshold) and 75% of the affected people have to agree to having them.

Traffic Calming on Lewinsville Road: Mark Johnson of Summerwood and the Lewinsville Coalition will send a letter to Supervisor Joan DuBois recommending a

median “island” be constructed immediately in front of Spring Hill School. Jane E. reported that funds apparently are available for the project. This island would not impact homeowners to the east of the school on Lewinsville Road. The median strip could be extended later, after further study.

Storm flooding: Paul reported that there will be no FEMA help to the Tysons area for subsidizing repairs resulting from the recent flooding.

HamNet: Jack reported he has 386 members on the HamNet (about 76% of residents). It was agreed that lost dog or cat notices were appropriate topics. As president, Paul approves all HamNet messages.

Artificial turf for 13 to 15 athletic fields: The MCA supports the Park Authority’s plans for conversion of natural grass fields to synthetic turf, provided public hearings are held and studies continue regarding health hazards and environmental factors. It is thought the focus initially will be on converting fields that already have lights, at a cost of approximately \$700,000 per field.

Landscape Committee: Jane K. reported status quo until the fall and more rain.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations is on summer break.

Lewinsville Coalition: Jane E. had nothing more to report.

Transportation, Trails: The MCA passed a resolution urging the Park Authority to complete a Pimmit Run Trail segment that would permit travel from the Potomac River all the way to Route 7.

Luminaria Project by Hamlet Garden Club: The board discussed the Hamlet Garden Club’s \$800 profit last year from the Hamlet Luminaria project (\$600 over costs plus \$200 from the Board for non-participating houses, parks, and the cul-de-sac at the Hamlet Swim Club). Charlotte indicated the money goes toward Garden Club operating expenses and paying speakers. Several McLean Hamlet Citizens Inc board members who are not Garden Club members are block captains for this event; they take orders for Luminaria kits (a kit is one candle and one white bag) from their neighbors and later distribute the kits. Charlotte, who is a member of both groups, is the Luminaria Project chairman. It was decided to invite the McLean Garden Club president to the September meeting to learn how this profit is spent and how to work together on Hamlet projects such as watering entrance landscape and maintaining flowers at Falstaff Park. Charlotte noted that an aging membership is not likely to undertake active projects. Meanwhile prices are rising from \$.55 to \$.65 for each kit; Charlotte will place her Luminaria kit order in October.

McLean Citizens Association: there was no August meeting, but Paul reported on initiatives of the MCA’s Environment, Parks and Recreation committee he co-chairs,

including development of the resolution on the Park Authority's plans for the conversion of athletic fields to synthetic turf and for completing the Pimmit Run trail segment.

Architectural Control Committee: Charlotte and Paul have coordinated and approved plans of several owners for fences and other covenant matters. Trailers can be placed in the street if they have a valid license and are moveable, but Hamlet covenants prohibit trailers on driveways or on any other part of a lot.

Website: Linda reported the "dot-org" site now has a "site under construction" sign. She will continue to move our web site there from the present "dot-net" site.

Membership: Betty reported that 61% (311 of 507) of Hamlet residents have paid their dues. She is collecting the many positive comments received, especially on the value and effectiveness of the HamNet.

Safety: Dick is contacting the residents about the dumpster at 8002 Falstaff Street which is angled into the street and therefore a safety hazard. Jack asked why the newspaper's local crime report did not include the theft of golf clubs or jewelry that he knew were reported to police, when reports about crimes in other areas included these types of items. Dick will check.

Next meeting will be Tuesday (rather than Monday), September 5 to precede the picnic (scheduled for September 10) and to avoid having the meeting on Labor Day.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Hollan