

McLean Hamlet Citizens, Inc.  
October 2, 2006  
Board Meeting Minutes

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

Vice-President Scott Schlegel called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at the home of Doug Colvard.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Ben distributed his report of activity through September 30; the report was accepted. It was noted the picnic costs were higher than budgeted, partially due to increased ice cream consumption plus costs for the magician (\$450), ponies, and moon bounce, which were not incurred last year. Doug noted that we ran out of the 300 sodas; more are needed next year.

Falstaff Park: Betty reported that the locked bulletin board continues to get little use. She will continue to investigate alternatives to locking it.

Speeding, Police Actions: Dick reported the police have agreed to another stealth speed check on a location to be agreed upon, probably on the flats of Falstaff near Macbeth or Titania rather than at the top of a hill.

Traffic Calming on Lewinsville Road: Jane reported that Spring Hill School PTO will hold a meeting for parents on October 10 and an executive committee meeting on October 11 to vote whether to accept the concept of a median in front of the school. If they accept it, Mark Johnston of Summerwood will send a letter to Supervisor DuBois on behalf of the Lewinsville Coalition (LC) and the Spring Hill PTO in support for the median strip. If the PTO vote is against the median strip, LC will decide whether to go forward alone. Hugh will attend the PTO meeting in support of the median plan.

Storm Flooding: There has been no response yet to Paul's e-mail letter to Supervisor DuBois about VDOT or the County cleaning out the storm drains that caused flooding during the June storms.

Website: Linda reported that she has received a preliminary estimate from Network Solutions of \$1,000 to revamp the MHCI website plus \$60 a month thereafter for new pages. She obtained a second estimate from Mary Lang of about the same \$1,000 initial effort, but \$60 an hour as needed for later changes. Both estimates assumed Linda would continue posting minutes and handling other webmaster duties, and that Dick would post real estate and public safety information. Nancy Bavisotto thought the addition of a bulletin board with babysitters names and numbers would be a big help. Betty, Scott,

Doug and Dick agreed to check other good sites to identify a desired new look and “identity” for the new website.

General Policies: Paul provided copies of correspondence relating to a successful intervention to resolve a yard maintenance problem of long standing. An elderly neighbor had complained to the Hamlet Board that for six years the yard of a rental owned by the British Embassy had been ignored, and the new tenants with a three-year tour felt it was not their obligation to resolve the problem. After receiving Paul’s well-documented letter with photos, the embassy agreed to hire landscapers to prune all of their (14) properties including this one on Birnam Wood Drive.

Free Mediation Services Available: Betty has found a program offered by George Mason University and funded from grants from Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae and other that provides free mediation services to individuals, especially for homeowners.

Proposed New Multi-Way Stop Signs (MWS): Scott introduced Nancy Bavisotto who wants to lead an effort to add two additional multi-way stop signs on Birnam Wood at Titania and at Falstaff to make it safer for children walking or riding their bikes to school to cross the roads. Several members agreed the stop signs would be good for slowing traffic. Concern was expressed that other locations might be proposed one or more at a time to accumulate for too much stop-and-start progress on Falstaff as a main thoroughfare of the neighborhood. Dick distributed the qualifications and procedures for MWSs. The subject was tabled for additional discussion.

Directories: Charlotte reported that the MHCI directories have gone to the printer and will be mailed next week.

Landscape Committee: Jane K. is away on travel.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations : no report.

Lewinsville Coalition (LC): Jane E. reported that LC met at the offices of West\*Group on September 27 to hear the company’s vision for Tysons Corner development. Interestingly, various West\*Group officials do not think the tunnel option for Metro is dead. McLean Bible Church (MBC) is suing both in circuit and federal courts to overturn the decision of the Fairfax County Board of Zoning Appeals to uphold the County’s Zoning Administrator’s denial of seminary classes at that site; meanwhile classes continue. The circuit court judge told MBC to “revisit” its claim. A woman wants to start an after-school day care program at the Shiloh Baptist Church on Spring Hill Road. Jane will meet with her later in the month. The LC will meet again in November.

Transportation, Trails: Jane E. noted that the trail under the Dulles Toll Road is near completion.

McLean Citizens Association: no report.

Architectural Control Committee: Miguel reported he is planning to go to the county to read up on regulations and plans.

Membership: Betty reported that 81% (411 of 507) of Hamlet residents have paid their dues. She sent out about 120 second notices after the picnic. The Board felt she had accomplished her task well. This is one of the highest membership levels of area voluntary neighborhood associations.

Safety: Dick reported that he wasn't sure if the man responsible for the Vienna metro assaults had been caught yet, but another man in the Reston North Shore Drive area has assaulted five women; he passed around the police drawing of the suspect.

Next meeting will be Monday, November 6 at Scott Schlegel's house.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Hollan