

McLean Hamlet Citizens, Inc.  
September 5, 2006  
Board Meeting Minutes

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

President Paul Wieland called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at the home of Jack and Jane Kalish.

Minutes of the July and August meetings were approved..

Treasurer Benjamin Leung distributed his report of activity through August 31; the report was accepted.

Newsletter: The newsletter has been put on the website. Would it be more cost effective to let residents read it online and print/mail fewer copies? Some board members felt a paper copy was more likely to be read, an email to be put off and not read. The cost savings in lower printed numbers would not be significant. It was decided to continue to mail paper copies to all Hamlet residents.

Picnic: Sam reported that he is ready for the picnic on Sunday and has the permit. There will be two moon bounces rather than one very large one this year. Doug will get the sodas; Scott will bring a tub for ice, Miguel and Sam smaller tubs for sodas; Charlotte has two trash cans; Jack will pick up the tables that Charlotte ordered; Miguel will pick up about 400 pounds of ice; Sam has the grills. The grass will be mowed between now and then; signs will go up Wednesday (Dick had obtained the replacement signs for those stolen).

Hamlet Garden Club: Ida Swiggett (President of the Hamlet Garden Club) explained the funding of the club comes from dues (28 members at \$20 each) and from profits of the Luminaria for the Hamlet (about \$600 over cost plus \$200 from MHCI to cover the pool area, parks, and non-participating houses (about 1,200 sets – a set is one candle and one paper bag). Charlotte said about 94% of houses participate. Their budget is spent on national projects and speakers for meetings. Their projects within the Hamlet include planting and maintaining the bed at the Swim Club sign (plants provided by Swim Club) and future watering and weeding of the Falstaff Park flower bed--MCHI will provide flowers and \$150 toward the mulch. Ida stated that an aging membership did not allow for greater activity with entrances and that if the board did not pay the \$200, Luminaria for the non-participating houses and other areas would not be a priority. The annual Luminaria project requires help beyond the Garden Club—about 50 block captains and 5 section leaders. With the higher 65¢ per set this year, the \$200 may not be needed from the Board. The Board voted to contribute \$200 again this year to the Garden Club; two voted no, one abstained, the vote carried.

Falstaff Park: Betty reported that Kim Saxenian found that maintenance men had weed-wacked the water reservoirs for the trees so that the Park Authority will have to replace them. A large older tree by the picnic tables has died and will be removed. The locked bulletin board is not getting much use. Betty will simplify the process by providing a drop box with paper and pens for messages to be left or by removing the lock so residents can pin up their own messages.

Traffic Survey: Dick reported that two speed surveys had been conducted on Falstaff Road by the police, one for several days from July 5 (between Touchstone and Birnam Wood) counted 5,597 vehicles with an average speed of 24.54 MPH, and another between July 26 and August 3 (between Romeo and Elsinore) which counted 615 vehicles going an average 26 MPH. The police concluded there is no speeding problem in the Hamlet and only light traffic; Dick concluded that their equipment needs calibrating or their counting mechanism needs to be placed elsewhere. Jack presented Dick with the Neighborhood Watch sign that was removed from the traffic island. Dick noted that the program officially operated from 1981 to 1987 in the Hamlet.

Traffic Calming on Lewinsville Road: Jane Edmondson reported that Mark Johnson's letter to Supervisor DuBois recommending a median strip in front of the school had not yet been sent. Mark is waiting to get the input of the Spring Hill PTO.

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 recent storms. Betty read in the newspaper that Prince George's County had cleaned storm drains before the recent storms. Paul will send a follow-on letter to the Supervisor.

HamNet: Jack reported he has about 300 members on the HamNet and that he has culled out duplicate household addresses. If e-mail messages are undelivered, he sends a post card asking if the address has been changed.

Artificial Turf for 13 to 15 Athletic Fields: A draft resolution from one of the MCA committees will be presented to the MCA Board on September 6 to support the \$10M bond referendum earmarked for the Park Authority to convert grass athletic fields at County parks to synthetic turf, provided that public hearings are held before any field is converted and provided that there is continued study of the impact on the environment and on the health of the athletes and children who use the converted fields. It is thought the focus initially will be on converting fields that already have lights.

Website: Paul proposed that we outsource the maintenance and upkeep of the McLean Hamlet website, with Linda continuing as the webmaster. Linda will research the monthly costs and one-time fees for updating the dot.org site and report back to the board. She will also consider maintaining the website herself once the new website has been developed.

General Policies: It was agreed that Association officers/committee members usually should not become involved in disputes between neighbors (even when requested), except on a case-by-case basis, or to enforce the covenants, or in instances where there has been a violation of the law.

Landscape Committee: Jane Kalish reported that she has recently planted 80 more perennials in the Falstaff traffic island, that she will be buying more when they are less expensive to plant for spring blooms. Some plants did not survive the summer heat and drought. The junipers at the east Falstaff entrance died and will be replaced. Pansies were also planted at the entrances and on the island.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations returns from summer recess this month.

Lewinsville Coalition: Jane E. reported that the next meeting will be held at the offices of West\*Group on September 27. Representatives of West\*Group will provide a briefing on the company's vision for Tysons Corner. A letter was sent to Supervisor DuBois requesting assurance that the \$675K from the 2004 Park Bond earmarked for the Spring Hill Park improvements will remain available even though the start of the project has been delayed.

Transportation, Trails – no report.

McLean Citizens Association: endorsed the position for a tunnel for the Tysons Metro expansion with a letter to Governor Kaine.

Architectural Control Committee: Charlotte and Paul have coordinated and approved plans of several owners for fences and other covenant matters. Two more residents called about additions, but they did not have plans yet.

Membership: Betty reported that 70% (315 of 507) of Hamlet residents have paid their dues, and she expects about 20 more at the picnic. She said we are on track to again reach 84%.

Safety: Dick reported he was pleased to have been accepted into the Fairfax County Citizens Police Academy, a 10-week program that includes all aspects of police work. He reported the Wachovia Bank near J. Gilbert's restaurant was robbed and that the robber was quickly apprehended nearby. There have been a number of assaults on women at the Vienna and Nutley Street Metro areas. Paul reported that someone had driven across the lawn and flower beds of a house near the corner of Falstaff and Birnam Wood. Charlotte reported she had witnessed it and talked to the teen-age driver, who has contacted the owner. No police report was filed. Responding to Jack's question why local newspapers' crime reports did not include the theft of golf clubs or jewelry that he knew were reported to police, Dick stated that newspapers have access to all the police reports; it is up to them to choose what they report.

Next meeting will be Monday, October 2 at Doug Colvard's house. Scott will preside since Paul will be away on vacation.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Hollan