

McLean Hamlet Citizens, Inc
FINAL Minutes from the Board Meeting
September 2, 2008

Present: Miguel Avila, Tapan Banerjee, Nancy Bavisotto, Charlotte Basset-Zimmerman, Hutch Douglas, Dick Coogan, Doug Colvard, Betty Grimes, Cathy Hollan, Jack Kalish, Ben Leung, John Mealey III, Ralph Ward and Paul Wieland

Officers & Directors Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm at the residence of Paul Wieland.

MHCI BUSINESS

1. Minutes of the July meeting were accepted as written.
2. Treasurer's Report: Ben presented the Treasurer's reports, including the budget for 2009. The FY08 budget (\$16,095) is very close to the FY07 budget. The line-item for "MCHI Luminaria Expenses" was discussed. Inasmuch as the Garden Club provides a valuable service to the community by organizing the display of ~9,000 luminaries each year and that the requested funds are not actually needed to cover the costs of the luminaries themselves, it was suggested that the funds really be considered, and indicated as such in the budget, as a "Contribution to the McLean Hamlet Garden Club".
3. MHCI representative to Lewinsville Coalition: The vote on Wade Smith replacing Paul Wieland as MHCI representative was unanimous.
4. By-Laws: Proposed changes to the By-Laws are being considered. Betty, Tapan, Miguel, and Paul will review relevant sections of the Fairfax County Community Association Manual for recommended procedures and language to present to the full Board in the near future. For example, defining who can and should be authorized to vote on Board issues at meeting needs to be updated, as well as establishing guidelines for voting by email for decisions needed between Board Meetings.
5. Robert's Rules of Order: Purchase of an unabridged 10th edition was approved.
6. Virginia Statewide Neighbor Conference: Te 9th annual Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference will be held Sept. 18-20, at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner. The Conference brings together grassroots neighborhood leaders, youth, representatives from nonprofits and government staff involved in neighborhood development, and includes information-packed workshops, speakers, an array of exhibitions, and opportunities for networking opportunities with professionals from across the state. This year's theme is "Embracing Change - Creating and Sustaining Community Connections" and will feature workshops on:
 - Embracing diversity.

- Safe and livable neighborhoods.
- Community leadership.
- Developing partnerships.
- Prevention.
- Youth programming and engagement.

Registration reimbursement of three Board members was approved unanimously .

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

7. Architectural Control: No new projects were presented. It was clarified that the Covenants do not specify what building material(s) front facades must be, only that structures must be preapproved as to “quality of workmanship and materials” and be in “harmony of external design with existing structures and as to location with respect to topography and finish grade elevation”.
8. Directory: Publication of the updated Directory is in progress. A lot of new (cell) phone numbers were provided, so changes are being checked carefully.
9. Entrance Care: The plan remains for two men to assume primary responsibility for entrance care from Jane, but that transition has not occurred yet.
10. HAMNET: Three messages were sent out in August.
11. Membership: Betty reported that about 65% of residents have paid dues for the coming year. The overwhelming comments received on the membership forms returned were positive and gave thanks to all Board members for a job well done. A lot of people reported once/month or once/week visits to the Hamlet website.
12. Newsletter: Articles for the fall 2008 edition were submitted on time, so there was plenty of time for editing and review to remain on schedule. Joe Parisi’s efforts on layout and design were applauded. It was noted that some of the graphics/photos did not show up/print well in black and white, so it was suggested that larger/fewer graphics be considered in the future, or at least attention be paid to the expected clarity of the final graphics. However, most of the color graphics and photos show up fairly well in the PDF version of the Newsletter available on the website.
13. Nominating: Six Directors will need to be replaced by the end of the current term (June 30, 2009), including all four Officers. Dick is the Committee Chairman and will select two additional committee members. Sending a HAMNET message to solicit new volunteers was recommended, emphasizing the need for workers that are qualified, willing, and able to attend the Board Meetings. The need for a better and reasonable policy on attending Board Meetings was expressed. This need will be considered during the - review of the Fairfax County Home Owners Manual and revisions to our By-Laws.

14. Picnic: Most of the planned activities are known to be in place for Sunday, September 7, although not all could be confirmed by Charlotte in Sam's absence. Various members are assisting Sam and Charlotte in the procurement and delivery of coolers, drinks, grills, trashcans, ice, etc. It was mentioned that the "rain date" of October 5 as indicated in the Newsletter will not work, as several of the main vendors were told that the rain date would be September 14, and that cannot be changed at this point. It was recommended that a HAMNET be sent out if the weather forecast predicted weekend rain.
15. Safety: Dick reported that no safety issues had come to his attention; however, the theft of ~100 doormats occurred in the Hamlet, all of which were deposited at a residence in the Woodlea Mill subdivision. A HAMNET message was disseminated to alert affected parties as to where their missing mats could be retrieved.
16. Transportation: In Wade's absence, transportation issues were not discussed.
17. Website: 332 "unique visitors" accessed the Hamlet website during August. Many stayed less than 1 minute. 1,354 "web pages" were viewed. It was noted that some traffic is apparently coming from a link to the McLean Hamlet website in a Wikipedia article on McLean, VA.
18. Activities by others:
 - Hutch – would like to seek professional or other qualified arborist(s) to evaluate aging trees in the Hamlet. It was suggested that Fairfax County offices be approached about the availability of such service from the County. A relevant article could be included in the next Newsletter as well.
 - Tapan – volunteered to pursue accessibility issues for the handicapped in the Hamlet and surrounding McLean areas
 - John – is providing a valuable service in posting the signs for Hamlet events (e.g., the upcoming Picnic)

OLD BUSINESS

19. "McLean Anthology": Ralph is still interested in collecting interesting stories about the past from McLean Hamlet residents. A HAMNET message was proposed as one means of soliciting such stories. In lieu of a published "Anthology", they could be posted on the website.
20. Fairfax County grant: Betty's proposal for a \$5,000 grant to provide legible house numbers was not approved. There is no option to resubmit in Oct/Nov as earlier described by the County. It is hoped that the County will give neighborhoods another opportunity for grants next year. In the meantime, it was thought to be worthwhile to go to the County offices to view what sort of proposals were actually approved before spending the time to prepare and resubmit a revised proposal.

21. Sidewalk completion: The proposal for Fairfax County/VDOT grant funds to complete the sidewalks was turned down. The program guidelines have been revised, such that now applicants must fund projects themselves, then submit a proposal for reimbursement. Program administrators have not been as encouraging as they were initially, making this a lower priority for the Board. Tapan Banerjee has volunteered to join Betty Grimes in the effort to have the Hamlet sidewalks completed. Together they will do whatever is necessary to keep our "Safe Routes to Schools" grant application current, so that VDOT will be forced to review it each year.
22. Tysons Corner development: Ralph has continued correspondence with the developers that presented their plans for the 300' building at 7940 Jones Branch Dr. at the last Board Meeting. Ralph confirmed that building signage will indeed face towards the Hamlet. The McLean Citizens Association and Lewinsville Coalition are also following the planned construction of this as well as other tall buildings in the works.

NEW BUSINESS

23. Complaints:
- Reckless driving in a loud, high performance car was noted. The owner reported that it is okay because the vehicle passed state inspection.
 - A excessive, paved driveway extensions was reviewed and not felt to be a significant issue
 - Private Swimming pool - Fairfax County was called to enforce swimming pool maintenance requirements. The pool was sprayed (by the County) to eliminate mosquito breeding.
 - An issue with replacing a deteriorating fence and overgrown bamboo was resolved by the parties involved.
24. Dolley Madison Library Renovations: Library expansion plans were presented during a public hearing on July 29. Offices and additional parking for the Supervisor's office have been deleted from the plans, due in part to MCA's (and other) efforts to minimize the number of trees that would need to be cut down and surrounding neighbors concerned with increased traffic. The current library expansion doubles the library space (about 10k to 19k sq. ft.) adding a wing on Oakhurst and a fan connecting the old and new wings. The major feature is a 12' high glass wall on the fan, overlooking the park behind. Approximately 33 parking spaces will be added. Construction is expected to begin around October 2009. A temporary library will be opened - possibly as temporary trailers on the parking lot at McLean Community Center or vacant space downtown. Cathy reported that the head of Fairfax Library attended the meeting and seemed pleased with the plans. There was some side discussion of speed bumps on Ingleside Ave (~ November).
25. Large item pick up: The annual "Large item trash pick up" is scheduled for Saturday, Oct.4, 8 am-12 noon. The HAMNET and Newsletter reminders encouraged donation of usable

items, rather than discarding them outright. Doug and Hutch volunteered to monitor the Fairfax County service.

26. Invasive vine clean-up: The next invasive vine clean-up event at Falstaff Park is scheduled for Saturday, September 13.

The meeting was concluded at 9:45 pm.

The NEXT MEETING will be Monday, October 6, 2008, at 7:30 pm at the residence of Doug Colvard.