

McLean Hamlet Community Association  
Final Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting

December 7, 2009

Present: Charlotte Basset-Zimmerman, Pat Bowman, Doug Colvard, Dick Coogan, Hutch Douglas, Betty Grimes, Jack Kalish, Jeffery Klemm, Rick Law, John Mealey III, Wayne Tate, Ralph Ward, Jan Wendt

Officers & Directors Absent: Nancy Bavisotto, Scott Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm at the residence of Dick Coogan.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Minutes for November 2009: Accepted without additional edits.
2. Treasurer's Report: Expenditures for November were presented and accepted. The main November expenses were related to printing and mailing the Hamlet directory. The spreadsheet formula for the current year's "Budget Variance" and "YTD Budget" figures will be corrected.
3. Meetings in 2010: The proposal to skip the January meeting was reapproved.
4. Hamlet Covenants: Ralph proposed that the Covenants for Section 1, 2, 3, and 4 be reviewed for updating. Wayne Tate agreed to serve as Chairman. Two additional members will be added, and comments and recommendations from all Board members and Committee chairs are welcome. The proposed revisions will be presented to the full Hamlet membership at the April Annual Meeting, if they are ready. Concern was expressed by some Board members that the Covenants not be made too restrictive.

#### COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

5. Architectural Control: Installation of solar panels at one house and replacing a fence at another residence was approved during November
6. Hamlet Connections: Someone asked for a contractor for yard work and for a wet basement.
7. Homeowner's Counsel: The question came up again as to how handle a contractor listing that someone was dissatisfied with. Rather than delist, asterisk or place mini-reviews, it was decided that the disclaimer on the first page regarding the origin of the list would be placed on each page.
8. Senior Citizen Services: John indicated that the list will be updated by March.

9. HamNet: Messages sent out in November included information about the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot, Medicare Part D and the opportunity to become a member of the McLean Police Station's Citizens' Advisory Committee. Since there is interest in broadening the potential scope of HamNet messages, the SOP for "Subjects of HamNet Messages" shall be expanded, since the broad sentence that states that any Board member may suggest a HamNet message, provided it is approved by the president, opens the number of topics to infinity.
10. Membership: About 79% of households have paid thus far. Charlotte suggested to Betty that the unpaid households could be reminded that they do not have updated directories because their dues are not up-to-date. Jan is also making it a point to be sure dues are paid prior to giving Connections help to residents.
11. Nominating: Dick noted that, currently, replacements for only two positions need to be addressed. That is, two Directors' terms currently end in June 2010; they will need to be replaced if they do not wish to continue serving.
12. Hamlet Parks: John mentioned that the County is planning to remove two dead trees in McLean Hamlet Park.

Whether to move the Annual Picnic to Falstaff Park was discussed again. It was suggested to actually lay out where the various activities might go to ensure that they would all fit. It was decided to propose moving the Picnic to Falstaff Park on a trial basis next year to the Hamlet residents. Whether Falstaff Road should be closed off right in front of the area remains to be decided.

13. Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program: Betty's submission included creation of a vehicle entry apron into McLean Hamlet Park and matching contribution of volunteer time for cleaning out brush along the Park entry. Jan Wendt and Scott Hall submitted a request for funds to build a modest multipurpose pavilion/gazebo in part of McLean Hamlet Park.

All proposals submitted to the Program were being reviewed this month (December). We expect to hear in January.

14. Safety and Security: Four mailboxes along Falstaff Road were vandalized in late November. While such incidents should be reported to the police, it is not expected that such past or future perpetrators would be caught unless they were witnessed. Ralph has continued to seek the Fire Inspector's report on the cause of the house fire on the corner of Oberon and Birnam Wood to help assess whether other Hamlet houses may be similarly at risk. The Inspector's office is waiting for the insurance company's report.
15. Tysons Corner Land Use: No Hamlet Board action to report. However, although as of November 10, the I-495/Dulles Interchange was supposedly only ~30% designed, construction is proceeding on a fast track schedule.

16. Website: Pat Bowman has agreed to serve as the new website manager. Linda Somogyi has begun to transition her responsibilities to Pat.
17. Complaints: Handling unsightly and neglected property needs a better mechanism(s) than what currently exists (progressive nudging, beginning with phone calls and gentle reminder letters mentioning the standards of the community) by the ACC and/or Board. Thus, the Board is revisiting the Covenants, per above. Relevant Fairfax County regulations could be provided as a supplement, when the time comes.
18. Lewinsville Coalition: Jan distributed the minutes from the last Coalition meeting by email, but they were not discussed. However, earlier in November, at the Coalition's request, Jan did solicit Board members' position on whether to support the Spring Meadows Homeowners Association's request to Fairfax County for limitations on hours of use of the two synthetic turf fields at Spring Hill Park. The Hamlet Board was divided on the issue, thus no supporting memorandum was sent.
19. McLean Citizens Association (MCA): John Mealey reported that some MCA board members have wanted Fairfax County officials to pursue a 4% meals tax to help reduce the current and projected budget shortfall (\$316M current FY and over \$500M for the next FY). A majority of the Hamlet Board was in favor of a "meals tax", thus John said he would report that vote to the next MCA meeting.
20. Garden Club: Charlotte noted that this year represented the 42<sup>nd</sup> year of Hamlet Luminaries, which, for the first years, were only placed along Oberon Way. The GC will not be asking the MHCA Board for a subsidy of their budget this year.

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 pm.

The NEXT BOARD MEETING will be Monday, February 1, 2010, 7:30 pm, at the residence of Hutch Douglas.