

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

June 1, 2009

Present: Charlotte Basset-Zimmerman, Nancy Bavisotto, Pat Bowman, Doug Colvard, Pam Douglas, Betty Grimes, Cathy Hollan, Jack and Jane Kalish, Jeffrey Klemm, Rick Law, John Mealey III, Ralph Ward, Paul Wieland, Jan Wendt

Officers & Directors Absent: Dick Coogan, Hutch Douglas

Guests: Scott Hall, Wayne Tate and Jerry Swiggett

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm at the residence of Jack and Jane Kalish.

MHCA BUSINESS

1. Minutes: Accepted with minor edits.
2. Treasurer's Report: Rick Law's revised format was accepted with minor edits.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

3. Report on Lewinsville Coalition: Pam Douglas summarized the activities discussed at their May 12 meeting. All member associations paid 2009 dues; however, the Dues Committee proposed that future assessments be based on member association size. Homeowners near Spring Hill Rec Center expressed concern about the increased noise levels due to increased use of the (now) artificial turf fields and have approached the County for noise abatement. Rec Center parking congestion continues to be a chronic problem that the LC is addressing. Any relief coming from the 2008 bond funding will not materialize until 2012 at best. The LC is also dealing with missing trail segments along Spring Hill Rd and on the new Lewinsville St bridge over the beltway, continues to press for adequate infrastructure in parallel with Tysons Corner development, and provided the final funding needed for the County to place an interpretive marker at the Odrick home site.
4. Architectural Control: Charlotte has agreed to become the Chairman again. A couple "ongoing" projects were brought to her attention for follow-up.
5. "Hamlet Connections": In the last month, two more requests for services have been received and two more offerings have been added to the list. Jan Wendt arranged for hand-delivery of information to about 60 residents for which email addresses were unavailable. John Mealey expects to finish updating his list of senior care providers in about a week.
6. Entrance Plantings: Entrances and flowers are looking very good, which, given the limited time needed to be spent on their maintenance this year, is a testament to the successful

transition to “low maintenance” plantings. Jane will look into options for obtaining adequate mulch to spread around.

7. Hamlet Website: The Working Group to review revisions and enhancements to the website will meet soon.
8. HamNet: Everything running smoothly.
9. Membership: As the current fiscal year draws to a close, membership peaked at ~84%. Betty Grimes expects to send out new membership letters in late June. Ideas for what else to include in the letter are welcome.
10. Newsletter: After years of dedicated service, Paul Wieland is relinquishing the post of Newsletter Editor. A couple possible replacements were mentioned for follow up.
11. Picnic: September 20 was proposed based on the Washington Redskin’s schedule, with September 27 as the rain date. Various means of announcing the dates were mentioned. More specific planning will be presented and discussed at the July Board Meeting. Betty Grimes and Ralph Ward continue to work on getting funding and/or approval to create a curb apron at the Park entrance. In the meantime, John Mealey will build a wooden ramp.
12. Safety: Nothing to report in Dick Coogan’s absence other than chronic speeding problems on Hamlet streets.
13. MCA: John Mealey attended the June MCA meeting. Many of the issues being tackled are similar to those of the Lewinsville Coalition, such as overdevelopment, noise, and traffic. The MCA is very interested in making sure that the Master Plan for Tysons includes sufficient public parks and other infrastructure, rather than relying on existing facilities, such as Spring Hill Rec Center.
14. Yard Sale: No one was able provide a specific report on the success (or not) of this year’s yard sale. It was thought, though, that shortening the ending time to something sooner than 2 pm should be considered next year.
15. Nominating: Two Board members will need to be replaced. Discussions will continue at the July meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

16. Committee Description: Ralph Ward requested that chairpersons prepare a summary of their committee’s activities.
17. McLean Hamlet Park: This underutilized and underdeveloped Park needs a chairman to take over the expanded use planned for the park. We will reapply for possible funding through Supervisor Foust’s office.

NEW BUSINESS

18. Spring Hill School Public Walkway: The fence along one side of the cut-through at the rear of Spring Hill School has been moved back about 2 feet. Additional excess dirt has been piled up outside the new fence. Since the pathway, dedicated as a “public walkway,” is the property of Fairfax County, a County inspector informed the homeowner that the dirt must be taken down to the level of the bottom of the fence. Ralph is working with the Fairfax County Public Works to have all surplus dirt removed from the public walkway, so that the walkway is restored to its original design. Betty is making requests to Fairfax County Planning to widen the 45 year old concrete sidewalk to the new 5 foot wide standard, as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The County has also agreed to fix the trip hazard created by unevenly matched sidewalk sections.
19. Bamboo by Spring Hill School: In an attempt to curtail further bamboo infestation in the Hamlet, Betty and Ralph cut down bamboo shoots on School property emanating from a neighbor’s yard. The National Zoo is in constant need of bamboo to feed the pandas, and the neighbor has offered the bamboo growing in her yard to the Zoo. Once the Zoo has harvested what they want, and with the approval of the School, the bamboo on School property will be treated to arrest further growth.
20. Dunsinane Court Pathway: There is a public entrance to the park that runs from Hamlet Park to the Hamlet Pool and Tennis Club at one end of Dunsinane Court which needs to be cleared. Volunteers are being sought.
21. Curb Appeal: The suggestion was made to providing monetary prizes for a Garden Club competition for the best front yard garden display as viewed from the street. Jane Kalish mentioned that the Washington Federation of Garden Clubs will come to an area and judge front yards upon request (with some assistance). It was decided to take advantage of that option in the spring and provide about five framed certificates as “prizes.” Whether there would be different categories was undecided.

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 pm.

The NEXT BOARD MEETING will be Monday, July 6, 2009, 7:30 pm, at the residence of Charlotte Basset-Zimmerman.*