

McLean Hamlet Community Association
FINAL - Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting

October 5, 2009

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

Officers & Directors Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm at the residence of Doug Colvard

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Minutes: Accepted without additional edits.
2. Treasurer's Report: Expenditures for September were presented and accepted. The picnic will likely cost slightly more than was budgeted, once all bills are paid.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

3. Architectural Control: One homeowner sought and was granted belated approval for the addition of a bedroom over their garage.
4. Hamlet Connections / Homeowner's Counsel: Ralph distributed an updated list of contractors distributed to the Board. Following distribution of the Newsletter, one additional volunteer and one request for service was received. The question of how often updates should be disseminated via HamNet was raised, and it was decided that occasional updates were okay, but not necessarily every time the list changed.
5. Directory, 2010 Edition: The revised neighborhood street map was distributed for final comment and was accepted. The plan is still to position the map in the center of the Directory, and following a vote, the clear majority agreed that the pages that made up the backside of the map should remain blank, as some people tear out the map page to carry around with them. Charlotte expected that the Directory would be mailed out within a week.
6. HamNet: Everything running smoothly; 8-10 messages /month, recently.
7. Membership: About 76% of households have paid thus far. About 20 people paid at the picnic. Betty wondered whether the Board could come up with a mechanism whereby donations could be made towards specified items when people pay their annual dues.
8. Picnic: Another successful picnic. Thanks to everyone that made it possible. Ralph solicited task write-ups from everyone that carried out some aspect of the picnic, as a guide for future picnics. The question was raised as to whether the start time should be earlier so that it

would end before dusk. The consensus was to keep the 4 pm start time so as not to be too far removed from the dinner hour.

9. Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program: Betty, Ralph and Jan presented their ideas for writing one or two proposals asking for grants (applications due Oct. 16).

A proposal to fund creation of a vehicle entry apron into McLean Hamlet Park was approved by all. VDOT provided an estimate of \$700 to cut the curb, which is based on their cost when awarding a contract for a neighborhood replacement of many apron. Our request for the apron will be combined with other Park enhancement/clean-up items to come up closer to the allowed grant budget of \$5,000.

Betty suggested a proposal to asphalt the “pathway” from Hamlet Park to the back of Hamlet Swim and Tennis Club. This would be welcomed by many people who walk through the often very wet ground, although the cost would be far beyond what could be considered and the wet ground is unstable and difficult to build on. A clear majority voted not to consider this option.

The third idea was to request funds to build a modest pavilion/gazebo in a park in the Hamlet. Pros and cons were discussed as to which Park would be best suited for such a structure, and a number of concerns were raised, regardless of its potential location. A motion for submitting an application to build it in McLean Hamlet Park was approved.

A related question was raised as to whether the annual picnic should be moved to Falstaff Park. The initial reaction was to allow time to visit the parks and determine if there is enough room at Falstaff Park. It was agreed that it would be discussed again at the November meeting.

10. MCHA Post Office Box: The MCHA post office box is currently in the 22101 post office, in part because boxes have not been available at the 22102 Post Office and for convenience. However, our box (272) is right beside MCA’s (273), and it was felt that some mail was being misdirected. It would require changes to the MCHA certification with Fairfax County and other formal addresses and the purchase of new stationary and checks. The motion to move our PO box to 22102 was approved.

11. Newsletter: Lee Rainie will be taking over as Editor.

12. Safety: A car on Macbeth Street was broken into in late August (car was left unlocked). Betty suggested embarking on an unofficial, “passive” Neighborhood Watch program. She will incorporate that into the welcome letter to newcomers and others may wish to state it in future Newsletters.

12. Transportation: Ralph determined that the brick “McLean Hamlet” entrance sign at the Snow Meadow Lane entrance will be moved and reassembled by the bridge construction crew. Jane has already confiscated the surrounding shrubbery for safe-keeping.

13. Lewinsville Bridge: Everyone should have received notice of the October 20 meeting at Spring Hill ES organized by HOT lane project staff.
14. MCA: John Mealey was unable to attend the last meeting when the meeting time was changed on short notice. MCA issued a resolution to try to convince Fairfax County to save some funding that it “found” in the budget, rather than spend it right away.
15. Lewinsville Coalition: The Coalition sent Ralph the Minutes of their last meeting. The Coalition has a \$7K operating funds and ~\$29K in a developer’s fund. MHCA’s dues of \$250 toward their annual budget of \$1,500 will be due in January. They contributed ~\$800 towards noise abatement surrounding the artificial fields behind the SH Rec Center. The Lewinsville Road median project in front of Spring Hill School is being delayed as the three main stakeholders (Fairfax County Dept of Transportation, Fairfax County Park Authority and VDOT) reconcile their mutually exclusive plans.
16. Complaints: The appearance of a property on Ariel Way was brought to Ralph’s attention, but the complaint was not new and can not be resolved.
17. Other Business: Jan was contacted by a Washingtonian Magazine reporter who asked about what made the Hamlet an attractive place to live, giving the impression that the Hamlet would be mentioned in the November issue.

Spring Hill ES – Included in the school bond budget up for a vote in November is construction of a two-story addition that would be connected to the current two-story structure (the gym area) over the summer of 2011. The areas that are one story would remain one story. Janie Strauss, the Dranesville School Board member, is scheduled to discuss the expansion at the next Lewinsville Coalition meeting in November.

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 pm.

The NEXT BOARD MEETING will be Monday, November 2, 2009, 7:30 pm, at the residence of Nancy Bavisotto.