

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

April 8, 2010

Spring Hill Elementary School

Present: Pat Bowman, Doug Colvard, Dick Coogan, Hutch Douglas, Betty Grimes, Scott Hall, Jeffery Klemm, Maggie Law, Rick Law, John Mealey III, Wayne Tate, Ralph Ward, Jan Wendt

Officers & Directors Absent: Nancy Bavisotto

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Minutes for March 2010: Betty Grimes' Minutes were accepted as presented, and she will forward them to Pat Bowman for posting on the Hamlet website.
2. Treasurer's Report: The major financial change was booking the \$5,000 purchase order from Fairfax County for construction of the Hamlet Park gazebo. Actual payments will follow submission of invoices to the County. It was decided to defer the budgeted contribution to the Lewinsville Coalition and the Friends of Pleasant Grove until such time as each organization presents a need for additional funds.
3. Senior Citizen Services: Samples of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission "Quick Guide" to public and private agencies offering services was handed out to Board members. A decision will be made at the next Board meeting as to whether 400 or so copies should be purchased at \$2.50 each for distribution.
4. Membership in the Community Associations Institute: Ralph noted that he has joined the CAI organization as President of MHCA, at an annual cost of \$114. They provide (sell) a large variety of resources on HOA policies and management and offer numerous courses, magazines and reference books. With membership comes access to the resources on the members-only section of their website. The national office is in Alexandria and the Metropolitan Washington Chapter is on Leesburg Pike near Tysons Corner. The National Convention & Exposition is at the end of April in Las Vegas, although the local Chapter holds events throughout the year.
5. Website and HamNet: Jerry Swiggett, who will take over the HamNet task soon, arranged for a meeting on April 20 with a potential new maintenance vendor ("JTC"). Pat Bowman, as our Hamlet website manager, will also attend. A key aspect to be decided is whether and how to initiate listserv functions to simplify and expand the usefulness of the HamNet service. JTC may also be able to host our website at a better price.
6. Spring Newsletter: Another successful issue. Thanks to all and kudos to Lee Rainie and Joe Parisi for their efforts. One suggestion for the next issue was to include fewer pictures, but make them larger.

7. Illegal Signs Posted in the Hamlet: Betty Grimes reminded the Board that we have VDOT permit which allows anyone to remove and discard signs placed on VDOT property (e.g., on stop signs).
8. Annual Membership Meeting: Ralph proposed that the Annual Membership Meeting be moved from Thursdays to Mondays for consistency with the monthly Board meetings, since the only reason that they are held on Thursdays is that that is what is painted on the signs. The Board was in favor of changing future Annual Meetings to Mondays, assuming that does not conflict with the existing By-Laws.
9. Complaints: The question was raised by a homeowner of how run-down properties were to be dealt with. Currently, coaxing and persuasion are the main approaches taken. However, the covenants committee is currently working on improved procedures to include better guidance and notification. Bamboo is still invading Spring Hill School property from surrounding Hamlet homes. Ralph will reconfirm the Principal's interest in having it removed before further action is taken.
10. Entrance Landscaping: Maggie Law is taking over from Jane Kalish. They surveyed the main island at the Falstaff entrance and determined that weeding and mulching was needed soon. The lowest bid that Maggie could garner for putting out ~1 ton of mulch and weeding was \$600. The Board approved the additional expenditure.

The annual General Meeting then proceeded after 7 pm.

The NEXT BOARD MEETING will be Monday, May 3, 2009, 7:30 pm, at a residence to be determined.

McLean Hamlet Community Association
Final Minutes from the Annual Membership Meeting

April 8, 2010

MHCA President Ralph Ward called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm at Spring Hill ES.

1. Nominating: Ralph presented the candidates for two Director positions: Jerry Swiggett and Scott Hall. Jerry will also manage the HamNet, taking over from Jack Kalish who set it up 20 years ago and has managed to everyone's benefit for all those years. As a volunteer, Scott has been assisting Jan Wendt on the Gazebo project and will manage the Yard Sale. Our thanks go to Helen Charbonnet for managing the yard sale for many years. The motion to approve these two Directors was carried unanimously.

It was also announced that Maggie Law will assume management of the plantings at the entrances, taking over for Jane Kalish who for many years maintained the entrances beautifully. Our thanks to Jack and Jane for their many years of service to the Hamlet.

2. Covenants and Rules Committee: At last year's Annual Meeting, revised By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation were approved. Wayne Tate presented the Board current desires as Chairman of the Committee. There is interest in updating the Covenants for at least Sections 1-4. The Covenants for Section 5 is more complicated, in that it includes land rights and use. Some of the desired modifications are fairly straightforward, such as eliminating obsolete conditions. Because membership in the MHCA is voluntary, one of the first issues is to establish the limits of the authority that the Board has to revise the Covenants, such as whether MHCA is a "Homeowners' Association" or just a "Civic Association" in the eyes of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Committee (Wayne Tate [Chair], Betty Grimes, Hutch Douglas, and Ralph Ward) has retained Bruce Easmunt of the law firm of Chadwick, Washington, Moriarty, Elmore & Bunn, P.C. Once that is determined, he will assist in revising the covenants.
3. Hamlet Connections: Hamlet Connections has reached its one year anniversary, led enthusiastically by Jan Wendt. "Connections" is a communication service to the Hamlet, enabling MHCA members in need of help, assistance, services or information to contact other Hamlet members who have offered their time or expertise to provide various services and support. Types of services have ranged from general day-to-day needs, home care and maintenance, computer help, dog sitting, yard work, senior care and many other services. Initial contact should be made to Jan by email (or phone). In addition to Connections, Ralph Ward maintains information on various types of contractors used by area residents (Homeowners' Council) available to MHCA members. For information on available Senior Care and Services, contact should be made with John Mealy.
4. McLean Hamlet Luminaries: Ralph announced that the MHCA Board has assumed oversight of the seasonal luminaries, and is seeking a manager. Maps covered by each block captain and other organizational documentation are available.

5. Entrance Landscaping: Maggie Laws is taking over from Jane Kalish, who has served the Hamlet well for many years.
6. Hamlet Parks: John Mealy discussed several activities related to the two Fairfax County parks in the Hamlet. First, Jan Wendt and Scott Hall successfully submitted a proposal for \$5,000 to the County towards the costs of building a gazebo in Hamlet Park as part of the Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program. The structure will be an 18'x18' octagon with a concrete floor, roof and supporting pillars, electricity, railings, and seats. The main component will be purchased as a kit. Modest landscaping will be added later. The grant calls for a 25% community labor match, calculated at \$20.25/hour. Total cost is estimated to be \$10-12,000. A permit is currently being applied for so that it can be built this summer, although the grant is open for a year. When questioned, Scott and Jan indicated that the County would officially own the gazebo, although MHCA would have to maintain the structure, provide insurance, etc. Contact has been made with County officials knowledgeable about "Resource Protected Area" to ensure that any requirements are met.

Other Park activities planned are to aerate the grass area annually, repaint the orange gate and find a way to pay for a curb to be cut.
7. Yard Sale: Scott Hall is organizing the Yard Sales now, taking over from Helen Charbonnet. The next Sale will be May 8th, 9:00 am to Noon.

Presentation by Guest Speaker - Jane Edmondson, Chief of Staff to Dranesville Supervisor Foust

- Budget – The current Fairfax County "advertised" FY2011 budget is \$3.3B, \$1.6B budgeted for schools. The property tax rate, currently \$1.04/\$100, has an "advertised" figure of \$1.12 and a "recommended" rate of \$1.09. Given the decline in property values, homeowners' tax bills are not expected to change significantly. The budget eliminates approximately 300 County employee positions, cuts many services, and provides no raises. The automobile registration fee will likely be reinstated, which will generate ~\$27M. The budget will be "marked up" on April 20 for final adoption on April 27. The School Board adopts its FY 2010 budget in May.
- Snow Summit - On March 16, the Board of Supervisors hosted a Snow Summit at the Government Center to assess both what worked well and what did not at the state (Virginia Department of Transportation) and county levels. The lessons learned from this summit will be invaluable not only for the next snow storm, but for any emergency. An estimated 20 million tons of snow were cleared from 18,000 miles in northern Virginia. VDOT logged 24,000 calls. As a result, VDOT's budget for the fiscal year was decimated, meaning that maintenance (e.g., pothole repair) and mowing will be adversely affected. VDOT has now indicated that private citizens are welcome to mow VDOT right of way during this budget crunch.
- National Counterterrorism Center - VDOT has approved the design of an exit from the Center along Lewinsville Rd onto the Dulles Toll Rd (as well as an entrance into the Center). Permits are being obtained from VDOT; construction should not take that long.

- I-495 HOT lanes – The lanes may be extended to Georgetown Pike, rather than end at Old Dominion. Construction of the new Lewinsville Road bridge has begun and is expected to be completed in the spring of 2011. The new bridge will have bike and pedestrian access to Scotts run Road inside the Beltway and to Snow Meadow Lane and Timberly Drive outside the Beltway. Supervisor Foust was successful in securing \$800K to extend the pedestrian trails from Snow Meadow to Elsinore and from Scotts Run to Windy Hill Rd.
- Lewinsville Rd Median and Improvements to Spring Hill Recreation Center - Funds were approved in the 2007 Transportation bond to construct a median in front of Spring Hill School that would serve as a pedestrian refuge and help eliminate traffic problems associated with school traffic. A 2004 bond approved funds to create additional parking spaces at Spring Hill Rec. Center, close the Artnauman Ct. Entrance and create a new entrance on Lewinsville Road opposite Spring Hill School. At first the two projects were incompatible, but a solution was found that met with the approval of the County DOT and the Park Authority. One remaining issue is how best to provide for school buses turning left onto Lewinsville Rd. It is possible that a traffic signal would be installed.
- Trails - Supervisor Foust secured approximately \$250,000 to complete missing sidewalk link on the south side of Lewinsville Road between Alta Mira Court and Woodhurst Boulevard. Survey work is underway. The County also has funds for the missing trail link along Spring Hill Rd all the way to Old Dominion Dr from Lewinsville Road; Supervisor Foust's office has been working very hard with the one property owner who will need to provide an easement for the trail. It is looking promising. Also, an Eagle Scout project is being planned to remove the wooden pathway(s) that is part of a trail along Bull Neck Stream Valley Park behind the Rec Center.
- Tysons Corner development – The Tyson Corner Land Use Task Force began its deliberations in 2003. The Board of Supervisors received the Task Force's recommendations in September 2008, and the Planning Commission formed a subcommittee to review the Task Force them. Tysons Corner currently has ~20,000 residents and provides approximately 100,000 jobs. The recommended changes to the Comprehensive Plan would allow up to 113 million square feet, 100,000 residents and 200,000 jobs. Planning Commissioner Alcorn, chair of the subcommittee, has proposed an alternative plan that would decrease the amount of square footage to 84 million and shift the time horizon from 40 to 20 years. Supervisor Foust and others continue to stress the need for additional infrastructure to mitigate the impact on surrounding communities. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the plan on April 21. The BOS hearing will take place on May 25. Supervisor Foust was able to obtain funds for a new traffic study of 19 additional intersection surrounding Tysons Corner to supplement the Tysons Corner road study; 12 of the intersections are in Dranesville. Tysons Corner planners are looking into additional exits and are consider a “fly-over” of distributor lanes to the Dulles Toll Rd. Such lanes could require moving the sound wall protecting McLean Hamlet further in and increasing traffic noise. The next public hearing of the Planning Commission is scheduled for April 21.
- Soccer Fields - McLean Youth Soccer approached the Park Authority for permission to install artificial turf on Spring Hill Rec Center Field #7 (along Spring Hill Rd. across from Summerwood). MYS told the Lewinsville Coalition that they would not ask for lights to be installed. The Coalition has voiced a number of concerns about the project and has requested a meeting with Supervisor Foust.

- Dolley Madison Library - Construction has begun on renovations and expansion of the Library. If the project stays on schedule, it should reopen by the end of 2011. In the meantime, a temporary facility will open in McLean Square (Balducci's shopping center) in late June.
- Alfred Odrick Homesite Park – Everyone is invited to attend the dedication of the Alfred Odrick Homesite Park located on Lewinsville Road near the Bell Meade Subdivision. The foundation of Mr. Odrick's house was discovered during the County approval process for the subdivision.

Jane was profusely thanked for her presentation by all.

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.