

McLean Hamlet Community Association

Final Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting

November 8, 2010

Board Members Present: Roxanne Axtell, Pat Bowman, Doug Colvard, Dick Coogan, Maggie Law, Rick Law, Wayne Tate, Ralph Ward, and Paul Wieland

Officers, Directors and voting Chairs Absent: Charlotte Basset-Zimmerman, Betty Grimes, John Mealey, and Jan Wendt

Non-Board Resident Present: Scott Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm on the Spring Hill ES cafeteria stage.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Minutes for October 2010: The October Minutes were accepted with the revision that Committee Chairs would be listed as being Absent only if they are “voting” Chairs.
2. Treasurer’s Report: The primary expenditures for October were for picnic vendors and MHCA Directory printing and mailing. Donations towards the Gazebo project of \$2,300 were booked in October.
3. Filling Vacant Board Positions and Additional Volunteers: Two new Directors were put forth by the Nominating Committee Chairman to fill vacant positions: Eric McGinley and Atul Kathuria. Both nominees were approved by a vote of 9-0. Betty Grimes expressed her interest and willingness to continue as Membership Chair. Elena Lycas has agreed to take over the Directory and will be assisted by Betty Grimes.

MOTIONS AND VOTING

4. Standing Committees: The status of Standing Committee Chairs was discussed. The By-Laws identify many activities that only occur annually, and the Directory Committee, which is produced and mailed annually, should therefore be considered as a “project” rather than a Standing Committee. In that regard, the proposal that the Directory Committee should no longer be a Standing Committee (with the Chairperson entitled to vote) and instead should become a project was approved by a vote of 9-0. The change will be included in the forthcoming amendment to the MHCA Bylaws.
5. Entrance Signs: Consideration is being given to refurbishing the entrance wall lettering. Upon put to a vote, the Board approved refinishing the lettering by a vote of 9-0. There was still interest in power washing the walls first, to see what difference that made. Ralph placed silver and white cut-outs over some of the letters. Interest remained in seeing how other colors would look, in particular gold and cream, and whether reflective paint could be obtained. Different Board members offered to follow-up.

6. Newsletter: Because the USPS took three weeks to deliver the last newsletter, the question of how to distribute the Newsletter was brought up again. About 60 Hamlet residents do not have or rely on email. At the October Board Meeting, it was felt that the significant cost savings would be worth switching to email distribution as the primary means of distribution. A motion to distribute the Newsletter primarily via email was approved by a vote of 12-0 (which included 3 “For” votes by proxy). For the email-challenged residents, it was proposed that a “youth delivery group” be established to hand-deliver the Directory, Newsletters and HamNet messages. It was felt that it would be difficult to find someone(s) to manage youth volunteers for the long-term and the availability of youth volunteers would be unreliable. If such an attempt fails, then those residents would receive their Newsletter by mail, which would still cost much less than if Newsletter were sent to everyone by mail.
7. Directory: The 2010-2011 Directory has now been sent out. All residents are listed in the Directory; however, the policy that only MHCA dues-paying members should receive the Directory was discussed. There is a similar policy for the HamNet, as it is designed to be one of the benefits of membership in the Association. A motion that residents must be dues-paying members to receive a copy of the Directory passed by a vote of 7-Yes, 2-No (Proxy), and 2 Abstentions.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

8. Architectural: No actions by the Committee were required during October.
9. Connections: No report.
10. Homeowners Counsel: A resident was locked out of her house and required help from a locksmith. John Mealey and Ralph Ward continue to pass out reflective dots (to mark addresses that do not want local, free newspapers tossed onto their property).
11. HamNet: The “sender” is now displayed as “HamNet”, as a Gmail account.
12. Membership: Betty Grimes reported by email that 74% of residents have paid dues thus far, consistent with previous years. That translates to 373 out of 507.
13. Gazebo Update: The Gazebo Project Committee has submitted a request for a permit, and will need to submit a new set of drawings. The Committee has selected an 18-foot octagon gazebo from Amish Country Gazebo. The projected cost of approximately \$19,500 includes a concrete access sidewalk and the gazebo floor. Thus far, the Park Authority is pleased with the current plans. Ralph Ward met with Dominion Electric at the site recently to obtain an estimate for running electricity to the gazebo. Their only solution would require trenching through the woods to an access point on the backside of the Park, at a cost of over \$10,000. This was considered by the Committee to be too expensive. Not unexpectedly, the Fire Marshal has confirmed that there is no requirement for a sprinkler system or any other fire detection equipment.
14. Hamlet Park Grass Cutting: No update.

15. Picnic: There have been a few requests that the time of day for the annual Picnic be moved up. It was agreed to propose moving the time from 4-7 pm to 3-6 pm in the Spring Newsletter and annual membership letter, and see what kind of response is received. With regard to this year's Picnic, the tow truck that ultimately pulled the ice cream truck out of the mud left considerable "damage" to the Park by creating deep ruts and torn-up ground. It is possible that the MHCA will have to cover the Park Authority's costs to repair the Park grounds.
17. Website: Several recent changes and updates were submitted to the website consultant.
18. Complaints: Although not a formal complaint to the Board, a large branch broke off a tree on Birnam Wood Dr and fell into the neighbor's yard. The owner of the property on which the tree resided paid to have the branch removed.
19. Safety: Dick Coogan reminded the Board of the "Slow Down, Move Over" law for Virginia. When approaching a stationary vehicle that is displaying a flashing, blinking or alternating blue, red or amber lights on a highway of at least 4 lanes, a driver should proceed, with caution, by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to the stationary vehicle.

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:25 pm.

The NEXT BOARD MEETING will be Monday, December 6, 2010, 7:30 pm, at the Spring Hill ES.