

Brookland/Bush Hill Civic Association Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes were approved as noted in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – In the May newsletter the results of the audit on the Association's budget were listed. Several recommendations were made by the Audit Committee: Increase membership to 200 members (25 percent increase); approved the budget as presented; increase advertising rates; and each current member recruit 1 new member. To date we have collected \$4,720 for dues, \$148 interest, \$1,345 in ads, \$1,180 in donations; \$205 yard sale and \$50 misc (gardner's workshop). The money market was moved to Burke & Herbert where no fee will be charged as long as we maintain a balance of \$2,500. Current interest rate on the money market is 0.25 percent.

A motion was made to approve the budget as shown in the May newsletter as a tentative budget. The final budget will be approved at the September meeting with the new board members in place. The tentative budget was approved.

Membership – To date we have 363 members. The membership year ends August 31. The Association includes 800 homes. We have a BBHCA email/eNews list where 79 percent of membership are listed and receive alerts, notices and the newsletter.

Land Use – Boston properties want to build an office complex near the GSA site in Springfield. Site meets military setbacks. Land Use Committee approved. The Land Use Committee also approved a change of plan for a site that back in 1980 had asked for 13 townhouses. This is near Loisdale Estates. The change of plan is for a single office building. As part of the agreement, the developer has agreed to a \$5,000 donation towards Loisdale Park and adding 59 ft. for future widening of Loisdale Road. The Land Use Committee approved a zoning change for the mini mart/gas station in Kingstowne. They want to expand the mini mart and sell alcohol. In return for the exchange the country asked for additional funds for Edison High School.

New items that were brought before the Land Use Committee include off of S. Van Dorn a special exception for senior living, to be called Wallhaven Woods. Will have 32 units with approx. 1700 sq ft w/ 1 1/2 cars per townhouse. Elevator to 2nd floor. The Sunoco station on Backlick has asked for a special exception. They would like to remove their bays and add 2 additional pumps and increase the size of their store.

Neighborhood Watch – No serious incidents in our immediate area since last meeting. In Fairfax County there has been a 22 percent decrease in criminal activity. The incidents that are being reported in Lee District are petty theft, for example, GPS removal from vehicles, cell phones from stores. It was also brought up regarding door to door solicitors – all solicitors in Fairfax County must have a county card. If someone comes to your door, ask to see the card.

It was noted that we have an excellent police department and a motion was made, and approved, for the neighborhood watch chairperson to send a letter to the police department commending them on their excellent performance.

Elections – Thanked all committee chairs and current board members. Nominations for the board include Jeannie Henry for President; Kevin Henry for Treasurer; Dick Frederick for Membership; Sarah Kelley for Newsletter and Deborah Moore for Secretary. Motion made, and approved, to accept the slate of nominees for the next year.

New Business – Grass cutting on county land. If it gets too high or the county missed cutting the grass contact Sen. Barker or Del. Sickles office to make a complaint. You can also contact Jeff McKay's office. A reminder that if your neighbor, or some of the foreclosed homes grass gets higher than 1 foot, contact Christine at Jeff McKay's office. They will follow up and a notice will be posted on the door of the home stating that if they don't cut the grass a \$200 fine will be incurred. If it is a foreclosed home the bank or the real estate company will have to pay the fine.

It was also mentioned that Edison High School's sign out front is weathered and they are fund raising for a new electronic board. The cost is \$42,000 for a new board and they have raised \$24,000. Call the school's athletic department (booster club) if you are interested in making a donation for the sign.

The community yard sale is scheduled for June 6. Registration is open until May 27.

Edison High School's graduation is soon and they are having a lock down. The school is looking for donations and a motion was made, and approved, to donate \$50 toward their graduation night. It was also noted that while there are many worthwhile causes, we must be discreet in our donations as our budget is very tight.

Emerald Ashbore is an invasive insect that attacks ash trees. It is very aggressive and is the major cause of destruction in ash trees. It is heading our way. Fairfax County has a ban on all hardwood firewood leaving the county. The county will be doing an insect trapping survey. It was noted that in Bush Hill Park there are several traps that the country has installed. Apparently there is no effective treatment for Ashbore.

Guest Speaker was Jeff McKay, Lee District Supervisor. The budget was passed a week ago Monday and it was a bipartisan budget with all voting 10 – 0 in favor. Some highlights (and also noted in the May newsletter) were senior services restored, code enforcement restored, crime prevention preserved and the lion's share of public safety was restored. Cut 300 county positions with 78 people being laid off. Schools were funded at the same amount as they were last year. Discussion during budget session on vehicle decal fees – to bring back the fee without the decal. The state allows individual counties to charge between \$25-\$35 for county vehicle registration. This was voted down 3-7. Jeff McKay was in favor of the registration because it would have reduced our property taxes by 1 cent.

There has been a temporary glitch to the revitalization of Springfield Mall that slowed down the renovation. This has to do with Target because Target owns the building and

the land that their building sits on. The developers of the Springfield Mall need to get Target to sign off on the renovations. Looks like Target will sign off and it will go before the Supervisors on May 18 for approval. The Land Use Committee has already approved.

There will be no 4th of July fireworks at Lee District Park. One of the reasons is budget but the main reason is that the park is getting a synthetic turf for one of the ball fields and fireworks would cause a fire hazard. The groundbreaking for this is June 2nd. Instead of the fireworks there will be a free concert starting at 3p.

Commercial vehicle parking ban on boats, recreational vehicles, trailers and vehicles with a gross weight of over 12,000 tons will not be allowed to park on VDOT streets in neighborhoods if passed. Mt. Vernon, Loudoun and Prince William Counties, City of Alexandria and Arlington already have a ban in place. The ban will allow you to park these vehicles in your driveway as long as it is 10 feet from the street, or your garage. The county is not designating public parking areas for these vehicles because of the liability. Exemptions are vehicles less than 12,000 tons, taxis, and school buses. By a show of hands, those at the meeting showed a strong favor of instituting the parking ban. Jeff McKay needs a letter from BBHCA stating that. A decision will be made sometime during the summer as to whether a county wide ban will be made. It should be noted that this ban on commercial vehicles does not have anything to do with multiple cars parked in driveways or lawns.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.