

BBHCA Draft Meeting Minutes—Tuesday, March 16, 2010

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Called to order at 7:30pm. Call for board nominations - all positions are open.

Committee Reports *Secretary* - the November, 2009, minutes as written up in the March, 2010 newsletter were approved.

Treasury - would like to include in next year's budget, funding for new BBHCA signs that announce our meetings. Majority of budget comes from dues and donations. This month we incurred a charge of \$300 to cover printing of materials for a special meeting on the changes to the comprehensive plan affecting the BBHCA neighborhood (undeveloped land between Oakwood Road, the beltway and our neighborhood boundary.)

Membership - runs from September through August. Fifteen new members joined due to the recent mailing to 600 homes (out of 800) who have not joined. We currently have 156 members and collected \$3,500 in membership dues. Goal is to get 300 members. The newsletter goes to all households in Brookland Estates, Bush Hill and Gunnell Estates that make up BBHCA. E-Alerts go only to those that join.

Neighborhood Watch - No serious incidents in immediate neighborhood. A report of graffiti on the underpass where Van Dorn goes under the beltway was reported. As of this evening it has been painted over.

Land Use - Next week the Lee District Land Use Committee will study the proposal for the Loisdale Road area around Springfield Mall.

New Business - Calli Windfield who lives on Bush Hill Drive spoke to those in attendance regarding an issue where Bush Hill Elementary School children are using the easement that runs along the school and the backside of homes along Bush Hill drive as a cut through. The easement takes water off the parking lot at the school and dumps the water onto Bush Hill Drive. The children use this easement as a shortcut to get to the school and one of the neighbors whose house is on the backside of the easement has filed a stop the kids from using this easement. He was successful in closing the easement. Parents along Bush Hill Dr. feel the road

is unsafe since there are no sidewalks. The parents complained to the school about the closing so the easement was reopened. The neighbor complained again and threatened a lawsuit so the school closed it again. VDOT came out and did an assessment and deemed Bush Hill Drive is safe so the easement has been closed once again. This affects about 30 children. The owners of the easement have given permission for the children to use the easement but this issue goes beyond ownership and we need to delve into the reason behind the easement. Bob Michie has offered to take this to the committee for feedback. Calli Windfield has a petition for those interested in signing and if you have further questions you can call her at 703-922-5057.

Comprehensive Land Use - There will be a special meeting on Thursday, March 18 at 7:30p for residents only and then at 8:00p with the two developers of both sites where we will have an opportunity to ask questions. Scott Robinson from Jeff McKay's office will also be in attendance. The larger parcel (the backside of Westchester) is wanting to put up several 12-story buildings, which right now they can't do, but this doesn't stop them from doing so in the future. Other changes include change in phasing, and change in commercial space to mixed use. The current plan calls for 850,000 sq. ft. of buildt space. BBHCA would like to pull together a task force of residents who have expertise in land use. We need to have a position. A straw vote took place and the majority of people in attendance are against the changes to the site plan. It is in everyone's interest to know what is in the site plan. The zoning documents are on BBHCA's website.

Program - Guest Speaker, Delegate Mark Sickles just returned from Richmond after 60 days deliberating the budget. Virginia has a unique procedure where the outgoing Governor proposes the budget for the next two years. There is talk to change this. Some highlights were that we have a \$4.2B budget deficit that has to be met by cutting \$2B in services and raising \$2B. Recommended doing away with

car tax and increasing income tax by 1 percent. These were taken off the table.

\$95m needs to be raised in fees, for example, court fees. Virginia is receiving some assistance from the Federal govt on Medicaid, saving about \$300m and will be borrowing money from Virginia retirees' fund. The state is living with the same revenue as of 2006 with an additional 100,000 increase in population. Nothing in transportation - those monies are all dedicated, i.e., gas tax, 1% sales tax, car sales tax. There will be 3 ballots this fall for vote - 100% property tax relief for disabled veterans, elderly senior citizens tax relief and increase "rainy day" fund by 50%.

Several bills were passed - tasting of VA wines in ABC stores; allow alcohol to be served in the cafeteria of assisted living facilities; E-verified for state contractors; regulations for car title lending; add small tax on prepaid cell phones for 911 calls - 50c; political contributions - PTBA - if your organization is involved in a project you can't contribute to the campaign; noise ordinance for noise violation; increase of speed limits to 70mph on some interstates; tax deduction for setup of small bio-tech companies.

Several bills introduced by Sickles that were passed - State-chartered credit unions on the same level as Federal-chartered credit unions; when COBRA ends you have 63 days to get new insurance and the bill was to set limits; create autism employment service program; HOA have legal liability protection when storm water is transferred Access state level appeals if county can't help - example is if the Fire Dept comes in and paints yellow lines you could only appeal as high as county; parking in TH communities that have mixed parking - garages and reserved parking - allocate equally among tenants meaning a person with a garage can't have an additional parking spot because the garage counts as one; add bio-identifier in Medicaid files - electronic recognition - i.e. would be a fingerprint.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35p but Carl Sells stayed late and did a presentation on the history of the Comprehensive Plan on the 2 undeveloped parcels in question on Oakwood Road between the beltway and the backside of Westchester Road.