

McLean Hamlet Community Association

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

November 4, 2013

Officers and Other Board Members Present: Alan Holmer, Jeff Shivnen, Behram Shroff, Wayne Tate, Eric McGinley, Denys King, Paulette Rainie

Officers and Other Board Members Absent: Michelle Blanton, Tara Vold

Chairpersons and Others Present: None
The meeting was called to order in Alan's home at 7:38pm.

Administrative Business

1. The agenda was approved without objection, following additions by Rick Law and Eric McGinley.
2. Treasurer's Report: Jeff presented the Treasurer's Report. MHCA expenses for October totaled \$64.69, with income from dues of \$435.00. Motion to approve treasurer's report was seconded and passed unanimously.
3. President's Report: Alan reported on the switch of the Hamnet email service provider to activecampaign.com. The new cost is free, compared to \$360 per year previously.
4. Classified Ads, Rapid Communication Mechanism: Eric reported that the Classified Ads page for our website is ready to go. He requested and the Board unanimously approved an additional expenditure of \$30 for this service. Eric will post periodic announcements of Classified ads on the Hamnet, in addition to the website postings. Eric also described his research about alternatives for a rapid communications mechanism within the Hamlet in case of an emergency, such as long-term power outages or fugitives or dangerous animals on the loose. Following discussion, it was agreed that Eric would (1) follow up with Anhya Barrer about the current block captain system for luminaria, and whether that could serve the purpose of rapid communication; and (2) contact activecampaign.com to see if they could provide this service.
5. Report of the Transportation Committee: Alan reported that Wade was absent because he was attending another meeting of interest to the Hamlet. In his

absence, Alan reported that (1) on 495 North, near the Old Dominion Drive overpass, VDOT will extend the express lane to the left shoulder for about one mile, to relieve traffic congestion; (2) contractors for the trail along Lewinsville Road (between Elsinore and Snow Meadow) hope to lay down concrete and asphalt about December 15; and (3) on November 6, there will be a meeting to discuss widening Route 7 from four to six lanes between Reston Avenue and the west end of the bridge over the Dulles Toll Road; Wade will attend.

6. Report on MCA, Lewinsville Coalition: Behram reported that there have been no new developments.
7. Report of ACC/Community Standards Committee: Wayne reported a quiet month. There was extensive discussion about grass growing in the cracks in the street, and a consensus that such growth detracts from the attractiveness of the Hamlet. Regarding a particular problem on Ariel Way, Denys said her husband, Nate, would take a look, and if necessary, trim the grass himself.
8. Sponsorship of Little League Team: Alan reported that Hamlet residents Scott and Susan Schlegel requested that MHCA join them in sponsoring a McLean Little League Softball team. The Schlegels offered to split the \$800 cost of sponsorship. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved \$400 for this purpose.
9. MHCA Safety and Security: Rick said he would follow up with a resident who had a removable GPS stolen from her car on Titania. Rick will also investigate whether the Hamlet would benefit from a reinvigorated Neighborhood Watch program, similar to what currently exists in McLean Hunt.
10. Power Reliability: Jeff expressed frustration that officials from Dominion Power have failed to respond to his questions. He will continue to pursue this matter, including requesting a meeting with Supervisor Foust if necessary.
11. Membership Solicitation: Total membership is currently about 70% of households. Paulette will send a letter to all those who have not paid. Alan will also send an email to those for whom we have email addresses. Paulette will circulate a list of those who have not paid. Board members are encouraged to review the list, and follow up with neighbors as appropriate.
12. Fall Newsletter: It was agreed that a late November/early December newsletter would be good. Alan circulated a list of topics to be written by Board members and others. All agreed they would strive to complete their articles by November 15.
13. Christmas Tree Sales for Charity: Eric reported about a sale of Christmas trees that would benefit local charities. The Board agreed that he should send out a Hamnet to alert the community.

14. Tear-downs: Rick raised the issue of possible tear-downs in the Hamlet. He asked if we had any language that could be used to communicate to those who wondered about MHCA policy. Alan said he would send Rick the language we have used in the past. [Subsequently, Alan sent the following language to Rick and the Board: “ ... we take our responsibility to enforce the McLean Hamlet Covenants quite seriously. With respect to tear-down of an existing home and construction of a new home, the Covenants require approval of the Architectural Control Committee, and, for any future construction, ‘the harmony of external design with existing structures’ ... The desirability and continued strength of our Hamlet neighborhood depends greatly on the cohesiveness of the community which is reflected, in large part, by the harmonious look and feel of the neighborhood. While the Covenants are certainly not intended to inhibit improvements, upgrades and expansions (even tear-downs), they are unambiguously directed to the preservation of a sense of communal identity.”

Next Meeting will be held at 7:30pm on **Monday, December 2, 2013**, at Alan’s home.