

BBHCA Draft Meeting Minutes—Tuesday, Mar. 14, 2006

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm. The minutes were approved as published in the March newsletter and on the BBHCA Web site.

Committee Reports

Finance: As of today income generated is \$3,315. We have spent \$4,537. Our balance is \$15,411 and this includes what we have in the Morgan Stanley account. Our biggest expense still tends to be the printing and distribution of the newsletter.

Membership: Compared to 2004 and 2005 membership, our membership is down. In 2004 we had 224 members and 2005 we saw 255. As of this meeting we have 196 members.

Newsletter: Deadline for ads/copy is April 7. We saved money on the last printing of the newsletter because we went from 12 pages to 8 pages.

Neighborhood watch: If you see graffiti there is a non-emergency number that you can call. This number has been published in several past issues of our newsletter, or you can call our Neighborhood Watch Chair, Randy Bowman (703-922-9334).

A couple of vehicle thefts were reported: one on Larno, the other on

Piedmont. We do not have an organized neighborhood watch; it is a passive program. We have a placard that is magnetic and can be placed on a car; BBHCA members John and Janet Neeves use the placard on their car and periodically drive through the neighborhood. We have neighborhood watch signs at all the main entrances into our neighborhood.

New Business: BBHCA member Bob Michie gave an update on the Sidewalk and Trails Commission. The county has budgeted \$1M for trail improvement so if anyone has any ideas please pass them onto Bob.

Program

The guest speaker was Brad Center, Lee District representative to the Fairfax County School Board. He is one of 12 members and they are elected every four years. The Board sets policy and regulations for the entire school system which includes budget, policies, curriculum, along with expulsions. There are about 165,000 students, 22,000 employees, and 250 schools. Eighty percent (80%) of the budget goes towards salaries and benefits. The system has a budget of \$2.1 billion. Ninety-two percent (92%) of

our students graduate which is higher than the national average. Twenty percent (20%) of our students receive free or reduced lunches. Gangs exist at every high school in Fairfax County and there is at least one police officer at every school.

The capital improvement program is funded out of bonds every two years for enhancement of facilities (currently \$130m.) The board also deals with excess property of school buildings and there are currently two in our district: Wilton Woods and Virginia Hills. The County Web site now has links to all schools. One of the issues the board is looking at is how to reduce the gap between minority students and their achievements.

There is a town meeting on April 3, at 7:00 pm at Lee High School. The topic is "Planning Over the Next 15 Years". The board has a set of new draft goals and would like to get community input. For example, one of the goals is to have students be able to communicate in at least two languages.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm followed by a approximately 30 minutes of socializing among attendees as well as with the guest speaker.



SARAH KELLY

Realtor

Springfield Office

7202 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield, VA 22150

Office: 703-451-9400 Ext. 3986

Fax: 703-451-8023

Cell: 703-407-6577

E-Mail: sarah.kelly@longandfoster.com



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