

NOVEMBER 14, 2006
BBHCA Draft Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Sharada Gilkey, Co-President

The meeting convened at 7:05 pm. Noting that the secretary was not present, a volunteer to take minutes was requested. Sharada Gilkey, co-president, volunteered to take minutes.

Newsletter (Sara Kelly)

- The November newsletter was mailed in advance of the meeting.
- In lieu of the January newsletter, a postcard will be mailed to all residents to announce the January meeting and direct them to the Web site for additional information and announcements.

Membership (Karman Reese)

- Membership is down compared to the prior two years. As of the meeting we had 128 members. AT the end of the 2005-2006 membership year we had a total of 195 members and for 2004-2005 a total of 259.
- Members were encouraged to recruit their neighbors.
- Part of the drop was attributed to not publishing the membership application in the November newsletter.
- Donations to BBHCA have been significant and special thanks were extended to those who contributed beyond their dues.

Treasurer (Kevin Henry)

- The *BBHCA News* is our largest expense due to printing, mailing, and postage.
- Advertising revenue for *BBHCA News* has not met budget.
- Membership has not met projections, however donations from members has made up large portions of the shortfall, but not all.
- Based on a motion from the floor, a donation was made to the Franconia CAC holiday party, which provides food for police officers who have to work on Christmas day. After the motion was passed to donate the funds from the budget (16 yes; 8 no), even though there is no budget for donations, members at the meeting donated a total of \$110 out of pocket.

Neighborhood Watch (Bob L'Heureux)

- Bob introduced himself as the new Neighborhood Watch chair. His previous experience includes work

for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) as well as recently having his wife's car broken into.

- Due to the up coming holiday season, he strongly encouraged residents who plan to travel to eliminate signs that indicate no one is home, such as the newspaper. Also, let one or more of your neighbors know you will be away so that they can be alert for unusual activity.

Land Use (Carol Alim)

- As our representative to the Lee District Land Use Committee, Carol summarized several cases on the committee's docket. None involved our neighborhood. For a complete report, visit the BBHCA Web site.

Meeting Program

The topic of the meeting was originally planned to be a discussion and review of the Van Dorn/Franconia interchange. However, based on plans by Lee District Supervisor Dana Kauffman to hold a town meeting on the same topic the following day, the BBHCA Board agreed to schedule an alternative topic— Enforcement of Zoning Regulations in Fairfax County. Kauffman's staff assisted in inviting _____, who provided an excellent overview of the challenges facing the enforcement of zoning laws.

- Lee District has two inspectors who are dedicated to our area and know it intimately.
- Fairfax County has a total of 17 inspectors which will soon expand to 21.
- Chapter 112, the Code of Fairfax County, regulates land use for private property.
- Common complaints include outside storage, accessory structures (e.g., sheds), fences, animals, noise, and crowding or multiple occupants.
- In 2005, Fairfax County received 400 complaints.
- Effective January 1, 2007, inspectors will also enforce property maintenance.
- All complaints are handled confidentially; the name of the person submitting the complaint is never divulged. The inspectors gave an example of a wife who reported her husband for collecting junk cars.

The husband never knew it was his wife.

- Once a complaint is made, an inspector will review it within five working days.
- The inspectors for Lee District have extensive experience and often times work nights and weekends.

The inspectors discussed current investigations which are ongoing on several homes in the Brookland-Bush Hill neighborhood. Other cases in Fairfax County were also reviewed as examples of the challenges of and successes in enforcing the zoning laws.

In answer to several questions from attendees:

- The height restriction for grass is 12".
- There is no requirement to rake your leaves; however, you are responsible for keeping leaves and debris out of the storm drains.
- Sidewalks are owned by the state; you are required by state law to shovel snow from the sidewalks around the perimeter of your property.

To issue a zoning complaint, call 703-324-1300 from 8:00 am–4:30 pm, Monday–Friday, except for holidays

Zoning/Noise Ordinance Complaint Reporting Form

<http://66.179.23.21/dp1/metroplex/fairfaxcounty//customerservice/selectbyservno.asp>

For more information on zoning laws:

Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoning/>

Frequently asked questions

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/faqs/zoning.htm>

Who do I call for assistance?

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/faqs/concerns.htm>