

DRAFT MINUTES

Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association Meeting

November 9, 2010

Meeting started at 7:35p.

We are reversing our usual order of business with our guest speaker, Lee District Supervisor, Jeff McKay, speaking first. Until his arrival we will proceed. A motion was made and approved for this change of order.

- **President's Report**—**T-Mobile** will be doing another balloon test this Saturday from 1–4p at a location off Oakwood behind Westchester. Looking at a monopole from 125–165 feet. Next Tuesday evening at 7:30p, T-Mobile will meet again with BBHCA residents who have concerns or questions.
- **Minutes**—the September 2010 BBHCA meeting minutes were approved as published in the November 2010 issue of *BBHCA News*.
- **Treasurer's Report**—June 1–May 31 is the BBHCA fiscal year. We currently have \$3,846.99 in income; \$1,305.52 in expenses; and \$22,066.17 combined in our money market and checking accounts.
- **Newsletter**—A postcard will be published in lieu of the print newsletter in advance of the January meeting. Mark Sickles has been invited to speak.
- **Neighborhood Watch**—Not much going on in our immediate neighborhood. However, west of here a lot of burglaries are happening by same group/person—probably a gang, but not local—. Tools are being taken that can be sold cheaply. We have a really good crime prevention officer, Officer Jim Reid.
- **Guest Speaker**—We welcomed **Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay**.

The County will be adopting a **budget** in April. By law local governments cannot incur a budget deficit. Over the years we have gone from \$650m to \$250m to being \$55m in the hole this fiscal year. Trying to keep tax bills flat and protecting our core services. To help bring the cost down—hiring freeze, consolidation, not hiring behind vacant position, cutting library hours, park authority raising fees, etc.

The school system asked for an increase of school personnel and teachers with a 2 percent increase, but premature right now with the budget deficit. School compensation has been flat for the past 2 years.

For the first time in 3 years, the averaged assessed price of homes is going up even though commercial properties are lagging.

Springfield Mall will be renamed to **Springfield Town Center**. Renaldo is the new owner and they have asked for a renegotiation of price since the improvements to the mall and surrounding area was based on a 2006 estimate. A new value was settled on several weeks ago. Will be breaking ground next Spring. Jeff McKay's office is helping with the permits. Target, Silver Diner, Macy's and the adjacent strip mall are not part of Springfield Mall, but separate entities. Penney's and Target have already been renovated. Springfield Town Center will include a town center, movie theatre, food court, hotel, office/residential building, improved streets. Will look similar to Pentagon Mall and Pentagon Row.

The County purchased Circuit City in Springfield and will be making it into a commuter lot. The building has already been torn down. Long John Silver will be torn down next month and the gas station next door will expand. Chi Chi's restaurant lot will be rezoned as a hotel and Shoney's will be torn down by the owner and made into retail space which will include a Kinko's and Panda Express. Jenny Toyota wants to expand to property on Loisdale road.

The **Van Dorn/Franconia** overpass is a dead deal. We moved money to fix the Kings Highway/Telegraph/Van Dorn intersections.

Wegman's (near Beulah and Telegraph) has not broken ground yet. There are still legal issues dealing with the capping of the landfill. The scheduled opening date of Wegman's is 2013.

VDOT is studying traffic flow on **Franconia Road** between Rose Hill and Telegraph due to the traffic accident which involved a young girl on a bicycle. There is currently no crosswalks or traffic light in this area. We are looking to make it more pedestrian friendly and safe and also better manage the traffic flow.

Lee District Park is undergoing major construction inside the main entrance. There will be a new aquatic play area with 0-depth water surface, improved access to the theatre in the woods, and a new tree house. We expect it to be completed by spring/summer 2011. No general County dollars are being used. Park bond money is contributing \$1 million, and a memorial fund was set up by the Pisano family for children with intellectual disabilities.

- **Membership Report**—The membership year started September 1st. We currently have 106 members and \$622 in donations. Thank you for your support. Applications can be found in the print newsletter and on the Web site. Members receive the monthly eNews as well as special notices via e-mail.
- **New Business**—Speed hump proposal on Bush Hill Drive: Discussion ensued and it was tabled to the January meeting so that we can do research and have more discussion before voting on whether BBHCA wants to move forward with a speed hump. At the January meeting we will also invite a representative from VDOT.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30p.