

Minutes from CCHCA Meeting on May 16, 2007

State Senator Jeanmarie Devolites-Davis,

- Senator Devolites discussed the recent passage of the Transportation Bill which was passed after 16 months of negotiation. It was the largest transportation related legislation passed in the last 21 years. Northern Virginia will be able to raise and spend its own transportation money. A portion of the money will stay with local governments, approximately 40%, while the remainder will be spent by the NOVA Transportation Authority. The money will be used for mass transit and various other large projects. 434 million dollars should be raised from various nominal tax increases and an increase in the car inspection and registration fee. No general taxes were raised. Senator Devolites-Davis indicated that the money raised is not sufficient based on the projected growth of the NOVA area in the next 20 years. Approximately 700 million per year is required for transportation spending.
- A question was posed by a resident regarding renewable energy and why are we not supporting wind and solar energy. Senator Devolites explained that a commission was recently created to research the potential use of wind energy on the Atlantic coast. Most energy research is funded by the federal government, not the state.
- The state recently authorized research into natural gas energy. However, the federal government usurped the process, authorizing oil research instead. Governor Kaine took a strong stance against this.

State Delegate David Bulova,

- Delegate Bulova discussed his involvement in various state issues and legislation. Delegate Bulova agreed that the recent Transportation Bill was an important accomplishment but that it was not enough to provide for NOVA's growing transportation needs.
- 1599 bills were submitted this year, an enormous amount to deal with in 46 days. Delegate Bulova unsuccessfully fought a rule change in the house which allowed bills to proceed to a subcommittee that consists of 5 to 7 people and die without a recorded vote.
- The imminent domain definition was tightened so that personal property could not be taken by the government and given to commercial developers simply to increase the tax base.
- The Electric Deregulation Bill was passed to create competition among providers which is of benefit to consumers.
- The minimum wage was not increased.
- All immigration related bills were defeated except one asking for a committee to study immigration.
- Cell phone use by teens while driving was banned.
- The Photo Red Light Bill was passed. Two-thirds of the constituency reportedly approves of photo red lights. This is an effective program which was taken away from the City of Fairfax Police two years ago. Photo red lights will again be in use beginning July 1, 2007.
- A resident asked about financial incentives to encourage individuals to "go green." Delegate Bulova and Senator Devolites listed several modest programs but admitted that more needs to be done.

The minutes from the March 31, 2007 BOD meeting were approved.

Hildie Carney, VP: Membership,

- Currently 167 of 322 residents are members of CCHCA, which is about 57%.
- The new directory is finished and available tonight for those who pay their dues. The remaining directories will be distributed to CCHCA members in the fall of 2007.
- The Fairfax Boulevard Committee which is administered and funded by City of Fairfax businesses hired a firm to study how to improve the boulevard in terms of appearance, traffic, and its ability to attract and maintain appropriate businesses. The master plan was presented on May 15, 2007 to the City of Fairfax and is posted on its web site. The plan will require the City council to approve multiple ordinance and zoning changes. Residents were encouraged to lobby the city council the stop development along the boulevard until the plan goes into effect. Please contact Hildie if you have any questions.

Katie Gagen-Baxter, VP: Social Activities, (report given by Lisa Whetzel)

- Katie was thanked for her hard work as VP: Social Activities. Katie was responsible for revamping the office so that events are run by different individuals, making the position more manageable.
- As the new Publicity Committee Chair, Dia Pullen will assume responsibility for advertising future social events, which includes ordering and posting signs.

Ana Alanso, VP: Publications, (report given by Lisa Whetzel)

- Lisa expressed gratitude on behalf of the CCHCA for Ana's work as VP: Publications.
- Ana is always interested in suggestions and interesting pieces for the CCHCA newsletter.

Scott Adamson, VP: Community Safety, (report given by Lisa Whetzel)

- Minimal progress was made in community safety last year.
- The City of Fairfax was approached regarding the request for "stop bars," which are white strips placed on the street at intersections. The possibility of stop bars at the intersections of Old Post Road and Cornwall, Cornwall and Spring Lake Terrace, and Farmington and Spring Lake Terrace was addressed. The City of Fairfax will be contacted again regarding this issue.
- Next year the Community Safety office will be divided into "Adopt a Spot" and "Safety Liaison."

Dia Pullen, Treasurer,

- The CCHCA was again approved for \$1000.00 in grant money for community improvement which will be presented June 12, 2007 at the city council meeting.
- The Improvement Area Fund, which is money provided by the city for neighborhood enhancement, has a balance of \$1400.00.

- The unrestricted balance, which consists of funds from dues and advertising in the directory and newsletter, is \$2284.00. The balance was \$1918.00 two years ago. The majority of the unrestricted balance is used for social activities and the adopt-a-family program. Additionally, \$100.00 per year is donated to the FHS all night graduation party.
- A suggestion was made to install stepping stones at the entrance to the new path to the creek to make it more visible and accessible.
- The installation of dog waste compost receptacles was also suggested, either in the Common area or throughout the neighborhood as is seen in some local communities. Dia will investigate the feasibility of this idea.

Common Area Enhancement Committee, Nasrin Lescure, (report given by Lisa Whetzel)

- Common area is in bloom and beautiful.
- After collaborating with the City of Fairfax the horseshoe shaped path from the Commons to the creek was approved and installed.
- Yearly maintenance of the path will cost approximately \$200.00, which we can easily fund.

Welcoming Committee, Yanji Lama and Donna Frank

- Welcome packets were recently given to two new families. This has been a slow year, with only four or five other packets distributed by Yanji thus far. However, the number of packets given out by other committee members is unknown.
- Houses in the neighborhood sold for approximately \$499,000 to the low \$500,000's last year. Current sales are between \$494,000 and \$530,000.
- Yanji noted that although the City of Fairfax may monitor the creek it does not clean it. Residents are contaminating the creek by using it as a place to dump lawn materials and through the use of lawn chemicals and fertilizers. Several residents described the trash that they find in and remove from the creek. Several Safeway carts have been found in the creek, and a resident suggested contacting the store.
- It was suggested that education of our community and the neighboring community may help. Guidelines will be published in the next newsletter.

Ernie Klimonda and Marty Pullen, Webmaster Co-chairs,

- Although the membership forms continue to ask for the year that residents moved into CCH that information is no longer published in the directory.
- The information will be put into the data base and possibly analyzed and included in an upcoming newsletter.
- Ernie and Marty were thanked for their hard work. Ernie's pictures are especially appreciated. Lisa noted the CCHCA website is always current and used as a model by other local communities.

Old Business

- There continue to be concerns regarding mail service. Yanji has communicated with the postal service for several years due to poor mail service. Apparently mail carriers avoid the Spring Lake Terrace route. However, the new mail carrier, who is a marathon runner, is good.

- Lisa contacted the post office in February 2007 and found the individual she spoke with helpful. Lisa encouraged any resident with a concern to call or visit the post office directly. Lisa will post the contact information of the liaison she spoke with on our website.
- The ground breaking ceremony at Bleinhem is scheduled for June 2, 2007 at 12:00 p.m. Hildie has requested a separate invitation for all residents of CCH.
- The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is looking for volunteers. In the case of a community wide emergency, CERT teams assist with community needs until 1st responders arrive.
- Matt is working with Fireman Dunstan to organize CERT teams in the City of Fairfax. Any adult city resident is eligible to join the CERT program; there are no age or ability limitations.
- Training and materials, such as steel toed boots, are provided by the City of Fairfax. Brief team meetings are held monthly on a Tuesday at 6:00p.m.in City Hall.
- Ten to fifteen volunteers from CCH and OLH neighborhoods, combined would be ideal. Currently there are five for the entire City of Fairfax.
- If interested in volunteering contact Matt at mtwest1@verizon.net, and he will forward the information to Fireman Dunston.
- Matt will write and submit an article about CERT for the upcoming CCHCA newsletter.

Elections

The slate for CCHCA BOD positions for 2007 were presented by the nominating committee and approved. Appointed committee chairs were presented.

2007 CCHCA BOD:

President	Katie Baxter-Gagen
Treasurer	John Sabo
Secretary	Jill McNeil
VP Civic Affairs	Hildie Carney
VP Membership	Katy Sidwell
VP Social Activities	Lisa Whetzel
VP Block Captains	Chad Hurley
VP Publications	Ana Alonso
VP Community Safety	
Adopt a Spot	Steve Caruso
Saftey Liaison	Patrick Thomas

2007 Appointed Committee Chairs:

Publicity	Dia Pullen
Common Area	Nasrin Lescure
Welcoming	Yanji Lama
Webmaster	Ernie Klimonda
Historian	Steve Lescure