

## **Minutes from the CWCA Annual Meeting March 15, 2012**

Approximately 40 members attended the CWCA annual spring meeting. CWCA co-President, Catherine Blakley, welcomed everyone and extended a thank you to Damien Dovi (treasurer), Joe Cuniffe (co-president), Jim Talens (VP and secretary), Ed McGrady and Steve Sunderhauf (snow removal), and Cabell Fooshe (security). She announced that Dan Nichols who was responsible for getting speed bumps approved for Albemarle Road will serve as President of the CWCA for the coming year. Betty Ende will serve as Secretary, Damien Dovi will serve as Treasurer, and Jim Talens will continue as VP.

### **Budget**

Damien Dovi presented the Treasurer's report for 2011-2012. He reported revenue of \$22,706 and expense of \$4,057. Only \$525 was used for winter weather (salting for ice) since we had so little snow this year. 391 homeowners paid their dues. Dues for 2011-2012 were \$50 per home (the budget assumed that 75% would pay their dues). He reported that the co-presidents were good at getting the word out about dues. They placed reminder signs at the ingress and egress of the neighborhood, communicated about dues at the Octoberfest party, and included a flyer on the front page of the neighborhood directory. Approximately \$700 was collected for ads that were run in the directory.

For the coming year, the executive officers recommend that dues stay at last year's rate of \$50 per household. The budget projects revenue to be flat. The officers indicated they wanted to keep a reserve fund (approximately \$20,000) in case we have another big snow. A vote was taken and CWCA members voted to approve the budget as presented.

### **Snow Removal**

Snow Removal Chairs, Steve Sunderhauf and Ed McGrady, reported their job is to manage the snow removal contractor and communicate about snow removal. They do not collect dues, move cars, repair electric lines or yell at VDOT. They reminded residents not to move the 'candy cane like' sticks which are in storm drains around the neighborhood. If the sticks are pulled up and storm drains flood, the snow removal contractor won't know where to dig to fix the problem. They also reported they have hired a new snow removal company, JL Tree Service, Inc. of Fairfax. The CWCA policy is to begin plowing when snow reaches three inches in depth. They will also put down sand when there is ice on the roads. You can reach Steve and Ed at [cwcasnow@gmail.com](mailto:cwcasnow@gmail.com). They post information on the snow removal process on twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/cwcasnow>, on their blog: <http://cwcasnow.posterous.com>, and on the HoodPlayDates listserv.

There was a question on what VDOT's responsibilities are for plowing. Mr. McGrady reported that VDOT says they dedicate a plow for each neighborhood, but it's hard to gauge whether VDOT has come through. Sometimes plows come through that are not

ours and not VDOT's. There is speculation that this plowing may have been done on behalf of a high level government official.

### **Security Report**

Cabell Fooshe, head of CWCA security, said there was low crime this year in Chesterbrook Woods, but that the community needs to be vigilant. There was a break-in on Kirby Road near 123 this past year, but it was not in our neighborhood. Mr. Fooshe indicated that there are some problems with speeding in the neighborhood. Dan Nichols (our new CWCA President) worked with VDOT to get speed bumps installed on North Albemarle. He reported that there are some neighbors who are trying to get something done to slow down traffic on Chesterbrook Road. He thinks this may be challenging as not all residents along that route support adding traffic calming features on that road. There was discussion about speeding issues at the intersection of Laburnum and Woodacre and also on Brookside.

Mr. Fooshe also reported that residents should be careful about working with contractors who come to your door to solicit business. Residents should make sure the contractor has a license to do business. He also reported that people should be careful not to leave valuable items in their cars, should lock your windows and doors. If you see something suspicious, call the CWCA Security, Bob Blakley.

### **Report from Dranesville Supervisor, John Foust**

Supervisor John Foust reported that McLean Police said no problems were reported this year for Chesterbrook Woods. He talked about the possibility of getting pedestrian improvements on Chesterbrook Road. He noted that in order to get trails put in along Chesterbrook Road, the county will need to get easements. If the easements are obtained he said they will make sure to get funding for the trails.

He mentioned that Michele Pearce (on behalf of Chesterbrook School) is working on the Safe McLean Streets campaign. She has requested funding to complete a trail along Kirby Road. He mentioned that VDOT has approved a rapid flash beacon which is experimental and would be used to assist pedestrians crossing in front of the school. Supervisor Foust report he will look to see if Woodacre and Brookside can be reviewed again for traffic calming measures.

Supervisor Foust said he talked to the Board of Supervisors about the issue of putting restrictions on the density of assisted living houses in a neighborhood since the houses are commercial in a residential area. He reported that the county lawyers advised him they have no authority to restrict where houses are placed since the provision is part of the National Fair Housing Act. The act allows up to eight unrelated people to live in group house. He said he asked the Board if we could go to Richmond to get authority to prevent clustering. Staff said the issue had been considered in Richmond but had been rejected so his staff decided not to pursue it. He noted that some states have implemented anti-clustering rules, but the results were mixed. He indicated that if a house has

continual violations, they can be written up, but closing the house is unlikely. When asked if our neighborhood association could obtain a copy of the legal opinion, Supervisor Foust indicated we could under the Freedom of Information Act. When asked if we have the ability to restrict commercial vehicle parking in a residential setting, Supervisor Foust said no since the restriction is related to proximity to a school and certain types of vehicles.

Supervisor Foust indicated that there is a lot at 1447 Woodacre which was purchased by the county. The county tore down the house because of significant drainage issues so it is now a vacant lot. At the request of CWCA members, Supervisor Foust asked his staff if the lot could be preserved as an open space. They won't allow swing sets to be put in because of the risk of flash flooding, but did agree they could work with neighbors on landscaping.

Supervisor Foust also mentioned that the County Budget will be finalized on May 1<sup>st</sup> and that he will be talking to the McLean Community on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the McLean Community Center. The county proposes to maintain the tax rate at \$1.07 but because there are unfunded mandates regarding storm water and cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay the tax may be increased to 2.5 cents. He advised that the county executive proposes that the transfer this year to schools would be 52.5% which is a 4.5% increase over prior transfers. *FCPS projects they will have 10,000 new students next year and has asked for an 8% increase versus the 4.5% increase.* Supervisor Foust indicated that the budget calls for a small increase for parks and libraries but most departments would get the same funding.

Supervisor Foust reported that a 1988 Bond for Revitalization provided for moving utilities underground in downtown McLean. After much work, the staff has finally gotten the 43 easements that are necessary to put the utilities underground so construction will start this summer at the intersection of Chain Bridge Road and Old Dominion Road. The county will continue to work to improve pedestrian crossings at 123 and Old Dominion. Their goal is to improve walkability and bikeability in downtown McLean. There was an original goal of creating a satellite operation for the McLean Community Center in downtown McLean. Money has been set aside for this, but because citizens are putting pressure to make the McLean Community Center use its part of its \$8 million reserve fund so that the tax rate could be reduced from 2.2 cents to 2.1 cents per \$100 of property value. If this happens, it's unlikely that the satellite center would be built.

Supervisor Foust talked about the Dillon Rule which authorizes tree preservation. The rule was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2009 and allows the county to require preservation of trees (more to follow from Fairfax County speaker, Craig Herwig).

### **Tree Preservation**

CWCA Vice President, Jim Talens, reported he lives next door to a property where the house was torn down to make way for a larger house. The builder took down many trees including 19 large oaks and caused some damage to trees on Jim's property so Jim

contacted the county to see what provisions there are for protecting trees. In response, Craig Herwig, Section Chief of the Forest Conservation Section of the Urban Forest Management Division of Fairfax County is here to talk to CWCA residents.

Mr. Herwig explained that there are two sections in the Urban Forest Management Division. The first covers forest and pests and they identify and monitor gypsy moths, the emerald ash boar and other exotic invasives. The second area is forest conservation. They review tree conservation, landscape plans, monitor sites, review zoning cases and promote tree preservation. They also do public education and outreach for activities like Earth Day and Arbor Day.

Mr. Herwig advised that an ordinance went into effect in January 2009 which requires that all new development provide a tree conservation plan showing an existing vegetation map showing the 10 year tree canopy, an analysis of what's on the property and what the landscape plan is. He indicated that you have to post a bond and you only get the funds back if you follow the approved plan. He indicated that if you had 50% of your lot covered with trees before the construction, you would be required to preserve trees for 15% of your lot (30% of 50%). For more information, please visit Fairfax County's Urban Forest Management Division's website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/ufmdmain.htm> or call 703-324-1770.

### **Merrifield Gardens**

The second speaker, Wayne Boyland, from [Merrified Garden Center](#), provided a [handout that offers lists of trees for an array of soil, weather, and sun situations](#) (see attachment MerrifieldTrees2012). The handout is great to have on hand when considering any new bush or tree. He also handed out coupons for 10% any tree or shrub in stock, including the planting fee, good until April 30, 2012. If you are thinking of planting a single oak, for example, this coupon could be worth \$100 to you. Jim Talens brought home some extras so if you want one send him an email at [jtalens@verizon.net](mailto:jtalens@verizon.net).

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

**View this link to see why Arlington County recommends removing ivy growing on your trees.** <http://tinyurl.com/7bqhr8z>

**2012-2013 CWCA Dues of \$50 are due now!! You can pay via Paypal (see instructions below) or send cash or a check written to CWCA to Treasurer, Damien Dovi, 1520 Hardwood Lane.**

### **PAY DUES BY PAY PAL DIRECTIONS**

For those who would like to pay dues by Pay Pal, directions are as follows:

- Log in to your paypal account
- Select the tab – Send Money
- Enter the e-mail address: [chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com](mailto:chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com)
- Enter the amount
- Choose the tab personal – select “payment owed”
- Hit send money