

**Holmes Run Acres Civic Association
Board of Directors Meeting
April 4, 2007**



The regular April 2007 HRACA Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. The **following Board members attended:** Norm Atkins, Betty Cagley, Peggy Daley, Amy Eggers, Mark Eggers, Bob Harris, Patience Herren, Michael Jaworek, Ann Johnson, Catherine Johnston, Barbara Karro, Renée Klein, Brenda Mantz, Joe Ponte, and Chris Rupp.

Not Attending: Victoria Schillinger, Vicki Hancock, Mia Gardiner.

Guest: Mary David, HRA Web Coordinator.

President's Report

Brenda thanked Michael Jaworek for his help with the International Dinner. Around \$780 was raised through the silent auction. Old business to be discussed: leash law, who will be honored with Distinguished Citizen award. Brenda excused herself because of illness. The meeting continued without her.

Secretary's Report.

March Minutes revised and approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report

March financial report approved as distributed.

Standing Committee Reports

• **Civic Affairs**

Joe Ponte presented an update about the Dulles Metro Extension. On March 30, 2007, the VA Dept. of Rail and Transportation and contractor (Bechtel) concluded to start construction Spring 2008. \$900 million will be received from Federal funding for a total cost between \$2.4 and \$2.7 billion coming from residents, motorists and tolls. An independent review will take place before any final approval happens. The extension will run along Route 7 at heights up to six stories tall, snow will inhibit use since it will be above ground. It is unsure when the proposal will be voted on by the county. In addition, Charlie Hall will also oppose Lynda Smyth in the Primary Election for County Supervisor, Providence District.

• **Community Facilities**

Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 7th. Community Yard Sale will be May 5th. Discussion about signage and promotion on Craig's List. Also discussion about unsuccessful paving jobs to fix potholes. Corner of Hemlock and Holmes Run has also been a source of problem with storm/sewage receptacle.

• **Membership and Hospitality**

Amy Eggers reported that as of June 6th (new Board year) she will no longer be able to head the Membership & Hospitality Committee and asked for a volunteer to take over the committee.

• **Programs and Social/Youth Activity**

Michael Jaworek has volunteers for Egg Hunt and will pass that along to Norm Atkins. Michael was thanked again for his work on International Dinner.

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House and Garden Tour: Need volunteers to help and gather information. The tour has been held every other year in past, technically this is an “off year,” but we have chosen to hold this year on May 19th. Kim Meminger and Colleen Brewer have volunteered to organize. Patience Herren also volunteered. Will place call for homes and gardens to be featured.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

- **Community for All Ages**

Barbara Karro reported that there has been a lot of interest in the “Graying and Staying” movement. Discussion followed about the possibility of HRACA working with the HRA Pool for the benefit of senior citizens. John Rand will provide further information as the Pool Board progresses with plans.

- **Emergency Preparedness**

No report.

- **Historic Preservation**

We’re listed on National Register of Historic Places as of March 27, 2007. We will work to sell individual plaques for everyone’s home – to be developed later.

- **Successfully Changing Your Home**

The color PDF file has been posted to the website. Discussion occurred about printing options and costs. Final suggestions to be submitted to committee who developed guide for their decision.

Other Reports

- **Directory**

No Report

- **Federation of Civic Associations**

Betty Cagley reported Tony Griffin, county executive, spoke about the budget up for approval by supervisors. They’re trying to hold cost down on property taxes and seem to have done a good job with no notable increases. Many home assessments are going down, but by and large the main emphasis was not to raise property taxes. Some phases of the new court house will be open this year. Thomas Jefferson library slotted for improvement and slated to be closed during renovation. Fastest growing segment of Fairfax County is seniors. Trying to address this growing segment of population in budget also and what can be done to work more with this population? Some people on Board trying to get proposals and resolution passed to incorporate changes in budget and to dedicate a penny of the budget for each dollar going to Light Rail Transit – this amount equates to \$27 million dollars, an increase to previously budgeted amounts. This proposal did not pass. Emphasis was not to increase taxes. The “Issues Fairfax 2030” forum will be held at George Mason University, 8 a.m.–2 p.m. on April 26th.

- **Historian**

Ann Johnson reported for Vivian Smith – Providence District’s Historical Perspective project involving Holmes Run Acre’s role. Pictures were passed around to the Board of historic landmarks in District.

- **Providence District Council**

Ann Johnson reported that the Providence District meeting was held March 20, 2007. Tyson's Tunnel representative provided a slide show of elevated and underground rail examples – proposed four stops throughout Tyson's. Asked District Council membership to vote on resolution – Washington Airport Authority didn't put contract out for bidding but only stuck with Bechtel. This group, if selected, will

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be able to renegotiate cost along way rather than stick with fixed cost – this makes the project susceptible to enormous over-runs. There is very little support from citizens for elevated rail and resolution recommends that we not go with elevated rail option. If tunnel falls though, go back to drawing board because elevated rail isn't an option. Final resolution to be communicated to state and local officials, home owners and civic associations. Pictures of proposed tunnel and additional information can be found online at www.tysonstunnel.org.

Citizens' Agenda for Responsible Growth to be developed by Council and has been narrowed to six points. We will be asked as a community to vote for this. Ann asked for input from everyone to help her cast vote. Recommended to put something on Google Group to publicize to community.

Bob Harris recommended that we encourage HRA residents to write officials in opposition to the elevated rail. Ann and Joe will work together on composing something to be sent out to neighbors as guide for composing any correspondence.

- **Runner**

No report

- **Website**

Mary David reported that the Architectural Guidelines PDF is up on the website. Also requested to break PDF into pieces so people could download quicker and to break into complete chapters for faster access. Will this break flow of entire guide too much? Asked to run by Keith Gardiner since he's head of committee.

Old Business

- Printing of HRA Architectural Guidelines – we have two printing prices, the second obtained was substantially less. Renée Klein also proposed donation of report covers to community – she's also willing to coordinate printing at her place of work, essentially free of charge, but will need a number of volunteers. Would only have to pay for paper and is working on an estimate, but would be approximately \$350. Would be done on a weekend assuming we'd be printing in black and white. Color is an option but significantly slower process and is not recommended. Renée also questioned – does everyone in the community actually want a hard copy? Suggested a ballot method to determine how people would want to receive it; however, we might not reach people who wouldn't otherwise ask for the guide. Or could possibly print in black and white with a notice on front indicating it's available in color from website.

Seemed to be very strong interest in color guide. Keith is interested in color. Renée is willing to test how long the guide will take in color.

Patience Herren said we had already budgeted \$1200. We have \$800 unused Needy Family money. We probably have around \$2500 to spend, which puts us midway/within \$1000 of 400 color copies.

Michael Jaworek and Bob Harris made the following motion:

The Board would like to propose this be published in black and white with color available on web, clearly stating people can get it in color from the website (modifying cover letter) provided the Committee is in agreement with that recommendation.

- Sign Improvement – Money from auction will be used and the next Board will deal with this overall cost. Who, when and how this will done to be addressed during next Board term.

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New Business

- Plans for Annual Meeting (May 16th) including nominees for Distinguished Citizen Award and the Award for Community Service. Need to book Woodburn School for meeting. Renée Klein willing to keep list of past recipients in Treasurer's File and Mary David offered to add to website. Michael Jaworek moved that we vote via e-mail. Catherine Johnston volunteered to take nominations. Charlie Hall volunteered to attend Annual Meeting.
- Michael Jaworek spoke with Park Authority about the following items:
 1. Area of street damaged between Holmes Run Drive and park – this will be fixed according to the Park Authority.
 2. Park Authority beginning to patrol on weekends and starting to enforce leash laws. It is illegal to let dogs run free outside of official dog parks – for many reasons including waste pick-up.
 3. Sub Rosa soccer league play on Sundays – Let Park Authority know if games continue to occur. Any gathering of 40 people or more requires a permit. Luria Park is not designated for these types of gatherings. This is okay for Woodburn School.
- Patience Herren also suggested that the Leash Law enforcement be posted on Listserv and people should be warned of stepped up patrols along with listing of official dog parks.

Meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Eggers
Assistant Secretary