



## Parklawn Civic Association General Meeting Notes

January 12, 2009

Mason District Governmental Center

Board members in attendance:

Mollie Loeffler (President); Dave Galway (Treasurer); Daren Shumate (At Large Member); Mike Gates (Chair, Parklawn Improvement Committee)

Approximately 30 people attended the meeting, including two representatives from Fairfax County Zoning Dept (Victoria Dzierzek and Susan Epstein) and folks from neighboring civic associations

Mollie:

- Welcome, welcome visitors from Broyhill Crest, Barcroft Forest and Barcroft Mews.
- Request for volunteers for next round of summer events and park cleanup call 508.8320 to help.
- Newsletter coming out in May – need advertisers! Contact Rita Hicks, 307.5692 for rates and info.
- Congratulations and thank you to all who helped with the new Parklawn sign in the large triangle at Columbia Pike and Braddock Road, and with the clean up of the triangle.
- Kathy Hoyt made a motion to ask VDOT to add fine postings of \$200 on the speed limit signs on Braddock Road. Discussion: This road is a major cut through and many cars speed along here. The intent is to make it like Rt 7 going through Falls Church, which will make our neighborhood more desirable. There was also discussion about adding speed humps on this road, but this cannot be done because it is a major artery for fire engines, etc. The signs would be between Columbia Pike intersection and the Lincoln Rd. Intersection.
- The motion was seconded, and vote passes unanimously.
- Cleanup planned for Parklawn Park behind Harris Teeter for Saturday, January 17 at 10:00 am, then another on February 28 at 10:00 am (Clean up in conjunction with Barcroft Mews and Mason District Little League)
- Military base closure will add jobs to nearby Mark Center on Beauregard Street. The West End Task Force (a group of neighborhoods in surrounding area) is concerned about noise and traffic but this could bring homeowners to Parklawn. Email will be sent to all on our email list and Yahoo group about this for more information.

Dave Galway:

- Festival of Lights winners announced:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Brad Wisely at 6216 Glenview won for the second year in a row.  
Prize: \$50 gift certificate to Dogfish Alehouse and \$\_\_ certificate to Harris Teeter
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – 4100 Summit PI (\$25 certificate to Dogfish Alehouse and \$20 certificate to HT)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – 6201 Yosemite Dr (1 lb Starbucks coffee and \$20 certificate to HT)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Place – 6324 Oakridge (traditional design) (\$20 certificate to HT)
- Treasurer's update: \$800 in account. The sign cost \$3,200, \$2,500 of which came from the grant.

Rita Taggart of CAC and Broyhill Crest

- Informed everyone about the Citizens' Advisory Committee ("CAC") which is a public liaison to the police department. Committee meets first Tuesday of every month. Committee honors an "officer of the month" and "officer of the year"; has interesting speakers (most recently, someone from the helicopter unit spoke). Police officer informs the group about what is going on in Mason District. The presentation in February will be on the "State of Mason District". Everyone is welcome. Contact: MrsTagg@aol.com

Petra Wine:

- Has been working on traffic calming on Hillcrest. VDOT did a counting in Oct 2007 and found that 85% of vehicles speed on Hillcrest. Mr. Watson and Ms. Dameron took a poll in March 2008 in which 75% of people in the effected areas preliminarily agreed to ask VDOT to come see if we would qualify

for 3 speed humps to decrease and slow traffic. Informational meeting to follow (date to be announced). Contact: Ph.wine@verizon.net

Mike Gates:

- Next area to be “beautified” is the area around the new sign. Donations and volunteers requested. Mike needs volunteers who are interested in design, horticulture, and have a truck ☺. Richard Zambito has issued the “Zambito Challenge”: Richard has donated \$50 already, and challenged everyone to donate as well. Donations so far total \$125; If donations reach \$350 Richard will donate an additional \$50. Contact: eurytomid@gmail.com

Daren Shumate:

- Grant update: (View Grant on line at <http://www.parklawncommunity.org>) The rest of the grant money will go towards educational campaign at area schools and churches. He has enlisted the help of Mac Krounse and Steve Barrett who have experience with direct mailings and public service announcements. Some funds will also be allocated to fixing Glasgow Park (someone mentioned, though, that this is a county park and therefore should be maintained by the Park Authority), and possibly additional sign(s) for the neighborhood – possibly another, smaller, entrance sign.
- Trash: discussion regarding trash from 7-11 and Harris Teeter in Parklawn Park.
- Discussion about litter and Extra Mart gas station is.
- Clean Up will start with Parklawn Park behind Harris Teeter where human excrement was found (which Daren cleaned up). Mollie alerted police as well and asked for more patrol of this area. Flyers for Clean up on Sat. 1. 17 were distributed to Parklawn Elementary, Barcroft Mews and posted at Harris Teeter and 7-11.

ZONING -- Victoria Dzierzek (VD) and Susan Epstein (SE):

Question and answer period:

- Houses under construction: code has been changed: work is now supposed to be completed in 3 yrs. No Statue of limitations on buildings with out permits.
- Discussion about people living in unfinished basements: not necessarily a violation as long as situation meets minimum certain standards including existence of kitchen, bath, egress. VD/SE suggested reporting possible violations...
- Running used car business from house across from gas station: even though this house on Braddock Rd is not in Parklawn, Mr. Watson (?) reported that these people purchase cars in Pennsylvania and unload on Hillcrest... no resolution from Zoning
- Third strike team we were promised and for which we had high hopes is mostly involved with commercial properties, not residential.
- In response to a question, SE said that “one cannot assume” that a house is multi-occupancy just because there are consistently 14 cars out front....
- In general, the two representatives were knowledgeable and concerned for our plight (especially VD) but offered no real, solid, new ideas for improvement other than to keep alert and keep reporting violations.
- Zoning currently has a two month backlog.
- Short individual sessions with Zoning took place after meeting was adjourned where people discussed particular concerns and properties.