

Minutes
Springfield Civic Association Meeting
September 15, 2009
Crestwood Elementary School

OPENING: President Tawny Hammond opened the meeting at 7:40 PM explaining she spent the ten minute delay on boosting the room's air conditioning. She thanked the businesses that provided support for tonight's meeting: Joseph Sable of Costco who brought the refreshments, and door prize donors Lorraine Hancock, owner/operator of Springfield Massage Center (massage gift certificate) and Mike's American Grill (\$25 gift certificate).

Officers Present:

President Tawny Hammond
Treasurer Bill Gaylord
Director at Large Bruce Waggoner
Director at Large Bonnie Pritchard

Also Present:

Past President Rick Renninger
Raffle Donations Chair Diane Boughton
Hospitality Chair Sandy Frieswyk
Sign-in Volunteer Fred Kline

Officers Absent:

First Vice President Rick Gonzalez
Secretary Loida Gonzalez
Director at Large Gail Nittle

Office Vacant: Second Vice President

OLD BUSINESS. Election of Officers from May 2009 Meeting.

a. Secretary Loida Gonzalez agreed in May to continue to serve with the understanding that she'd welcome replacement. At the August 25th Board Meeting, the Board approved the nomination of Alice Merrill, a long-time Springfield resident who responded to the newsletter call for help.

b. 1st Vice President Rick Gonzalez, pressed by professional responsibilities, also agreed to continue serving while awaiting replacement. President Hammond's new neighbor, Jennifer Moody, expressed an interest in the Board and the President nominated her for Rick's post.

c. The membership elected both by acclamation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Hammond asked members to log on to myfox.com and vote for Lee H.S. for Game of the Week coverage.

The next SCA meeting, Nov 17, will be a Business Fair at Springfield Mall. Organizing it is nearly complete, but it needs a Chair. The President asked members to email her at springfieldcivic.org if willing to volunteer for this post.

Director at Large Bonnie Pritchard announced a one-mile Human Trafficking Walk scheduled for 9:30 AM, September 26 in DC to focus public attention on the problem. She reported that 2.2 million kids are sold in the sex trade every year, some here in Springfield. See her after the meeting to sign up for the Walk or to make a donation to help fund the battle.

COMMITTEE REPORT: Land Use.

Sandy Frieswyk reported on the Residential In-Fill issue called "looming", i.e., the incompatibility of oversized houses and the problems they cause when built next to the smaller houses of our community, looming over them. A copy of her notes covering the content of her report is attached. She wasn't present for the last meeting so she's unaware of what the UVA team listed as findings in their draft report to the Board of Supervisors.

President Hammond said there will be a meeting to address the report at 10AM, September 21 at the Fairfax County Government Center. It's not a public hearing so we can't speak, but she encouraged members to attend to learn what

the UVA team reported, hear what our County representatives have to say about it, and demonstrate by our presence our continuing interest in the establishment of regulations that will resolve the looming issue.

NEW BUSINESS. Candidates Night.

President Hammond introduced the candidates/candidate representatives for State Delegate, Attorney General, Lt. Governor, and Governor, thanked them for coming, and explained we'd likely adjourn later than usual in order to allow time for each candidate's opening and closing statements plus Q&A periods.

SCA members' areas of concern as expressed by their questions are as follows:

a. For Delegate - Incumbent Vivian Watts and Candidate Joe Bury:

- (1) Transportation/ Hot Lane Construction and Methods of Funding -- Your vision/plan?
- (2) Housing Population Density -- How would you deal with looming houses becoming rooming houses?
- (3) State Debt -- How did we get in? How do you plan for us to get out?
- (4) Transportation -- It's an essential service. Why not fund it from the General Fund?
- (5) Public/Private or Private Funding of State Needs-- What else besides transportation do you envision funding this way?
- (6) Environment/Transportation -- Your position on including environmental protections in plans for mitigating transportation problems?

b. For Attorney General - State Senator George Barker on behalf of Candidate Steve Shannon and Mr. Rich Nilsen on behalf of State Senator Candidate Ken Cuccinelli:

- (1) Housing Population Density -- What is Virginia and Fairfax County doing about illegal boarders?
- (2) Metro's Orange and Blue Lines -- What line extensions are planned? Where's the funding to come from?
- (3) Regulatory Reforms -- What kinds of regulatory reform does your candidate want to work for?
- (4) Status of Uranium Mining in Virginia -- Is it legal yet, what's your candidate's position?
- (5) Consumer Rights/Regulatory Reform -- Your candidate's level of interest in protecting consumer rights when revising regulations?
- (6) State Government Experience -- What is Candidate Shannon's Richmond experience?
- (7) McMansion Building -- What's your candidate (vs. legislators) doing to prevent it?

c. For Lt. Governor: Ms. Marissa Pugmire on behalf of Incumbent Bill Bolling and State Delegate Dave Marsden on behalf of Candidate Jody Wagner:

- (1) State Debt/Funding of Current Needs -- How does your candidate propose to pay for current needs? By banking on \$1B in future growth?
- (2) Job Creation -- For whom? Where is your candidate's interest focus-- locals, youth, McMansion owners?
- (3) Job Creation -- What kind? Is your candidate's focus on creating high-paying or minimum wage jobs?
- (4) Job Creation/Alternative Energy Sources -- Wind power is very expensive, especially transporting it to where it's needed. How will advocating for developing this alternative energy source create jobs locally?
- (5) Election Ticket-- Possibility of a one-party Governor and Lt. Governor ticket?
- (6) Job creation and Nuclear Energy Development - Your candidate's views?

d. For Governor -- Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity on behalf of Former State Attorney General Candidate Bob McDonnell and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay on behalf of State Senator Candidate Creigh Deeds:

- (1) Virginia's Debt - - In the billions - how does your candidate propose to get rid of it?
- (2) Transportation Issues -- How can Creigh Deeds understand the gridlock issues here when Bath County has just one stop light per The Washington Post?
- (3) Public Transportation Development Other Than Roads -- Your candidate's position?
- (4) Public Transportation, Metro -- To reach the same destination, it takes 20 minutes by car but 60 minutes by

Metro. Any plans to speed up Metro?

(5) Schools' Use of Funds – If only 65% of school funding goes to the classrooms, where is the rest going? Is there accessible data, down to the level of employee category costs (janitors, nurses, bus drivers, etc.), that show how school funds are spent?

(6) Closed Rest Stops -- Does Candidate McDonnell, if elected, plan to reopen them? With what funds?

CLOSING:

a. Treasurer Bill Gaylord awarded tonight's two door prize gift certificates to the winners, plus those won at prior meetings to members present tonight who missed receiving them at the time.

b. President Hammond reminded all that our next meeting is the Business Fair at Springfield Mall November 17, and again thanked the candidates/candidate representatives for coming to meet with our members and answer their questions.

ADJOURNMENT: The President adjourned the meeting at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Merrill
Secretary

Encl: As stated

Land Use Report on Residential In-Fill by Sandy Frieswyk at SCA Meeting, September 15, 2009

Four residential infill meetings were led by the Institute of Environmental Negotiations (a team that Fairfax County hired from the University of Virginia). They were hired to try and come up with some form of consensus between the building industry and the homeowners over the issue of looming.

At the first meeting the building industry and the residents stated their positions. The builders claimed that any problem with looming was not created by professionals in the industry. The residents claimed that there is a problem, no matter who created it, as evidenced by the fact that this years meetings and last years meetings were held because of citizens concerns that too many instances of looming were occurring due to the lack of appropriate zoning regulations and other types of limitations of property development.

After a long discussion about the definition of looming, the second meeting focused on determining tools that might address the looming issue. By the end of the meeting, 5 approaches as possible tools were defined:

1. Measurement Based Approach - using angle of Bulk Plane and set back ratios as measuring tools of building heights
2. Location Based Approach - using different zoning regulations for different zoning districts (especially the smaller lots in R-2, R-3, and R-4)
3. Process Based Approach - notify neighbors of proposed construction and let them have some input
4. Mitigation Based Approach - using fencing and/or landscaping to alleviate the effects of looming
5. Sufficiency Based Approach - use what regulations are already in place and hope they take care of the problem

As part of the third meeting residents of Lee District (I mistakenly said Springfield) and Mount Vernon District drove the mediators through the neighborhoods to see examples of looming.

(I did not attend the final meeting. I did not give a summary of that meeting to the SCA membership.)