

Minutes
Springfield Civic Association Meeting
January 19, 2010
Crestwood Elementary School

OPENING: President Tawny Hammond opened the meeting at 7:30 PM by thanking the Rebuild representatives for coming to provide tonight's refreshments and explain their new organization, and guest speaker, Robyn Carter, for coming to describe the history and significance of our community's development.

Board Members Present:

President Tawny Hammond
1st Vice President Jennifer Moody
2d Vice President Bruce Waggoner
Secretary Alice Merrill
Director at Large (DAL) Gail Nittle
Director at Large (DAL) Bonnie Pritchard

Also Present:

Past President Rick Renninger
Hospitality Chair Sandy Frieswyk
Door Prize Donations Chair Diane Boughton
Newsletter Chair Lee Paulson
Sign-in Volunteer Fred Kline
Ron Paulson

Board Member Absent:

Treasurer Bill Gaylord

ANNOUNCEMENTS. President Tawny made (or invited others to make) the following announcements:

a. Asking for a show of hands by members who delivered SCA's Community Handbook to Springfield homes, she thanked them for their help and asked members to let Loida Gonzalez know if they can help deliver the few remaining.

b. Employment opportunity: The US Census Bureau is hiring census takers at \$20/hr. You can work evenings and/or weekends and can request the community in which you want to work.

c. Fairfax County is now giving free H1N1 shots at the Health Department's district offices: Springfield, Fairfax City, Mt Vernon, Reston and Falls Church. Times and dates which vary by site can be found on the Health Department's website.

d. All are encouraged to attend Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay's annual open house at the Franconia Government Center, 6121 Franconia Rd, across from the Paradiso Restaurant from 1-3PM, January 30.

e. Joe Milligan, President of the Springfield Swimming and Racquet Club (SSRC) announced that the club needs the community's help. Without immediate action to generate revenue, primarily through increased membership, SSRC is in jeopardy of having to close. A meeting, open to the community, will be held here (Crestwood Elementary cafeteria) at 7PM, Jan 26 to discuss ideas for SSRC's future. Referring to SSRC's initiative to raise \$18K/year revenue through installation of a T-Mobile cell tower on SSRC grounds, 2d VP Bruce Waggoner said the preliminary balloon test for tower height (eyesore test) was done on January 9 and the matter will be addressed by the County Board of Supervisors' Land Use Committee in February.

f. The next meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Committee for the Franconia District Police Station is tomorrow night, January 20 at 7:30 PM at the Franconia Governmental Center.

g. DAL Bonnie Pritchard announced that Springfield Mall will host its first ever Bridal Show from 11Am-5PM, Feb 27, with wedding vendors present (caterers to reception venues and dozens in between) to showcase their services. To support our local Mall, she distributed flyers stating that admission to the show is free and door prizes include a wedding package worth over \$3000.

h. Watershed cleanup at Lake Accotink Park will be scheduled in March, date TBD.

i. There are three kinds of door prizes to be awarded at 9PM: Gift certificates to Mike's American Grill and Lorraine Hancock's Springfield Massage Center for Women and a dozen eggs laid today that President Tawny brought from Frying Pan Park. Today's batch are brown but next meeting's batch might be green, so come and see, you might be the lucky winner!

j. SCA received a collective \$2500 donation from a variety of cell phone companies for use by SCA's educational arm, the Springfield Community Educational Association, in their efforts to support our community; similar donations are being pursued.

NEW BUSINESS.

a. Introduction of Paul Hughes, Executive Director of Rebuild, tonight's hospitality sponsor.

(1) Paul explained that Rebuild is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that opened in Springfield in March 2009 in partnership with its for-profit sister companies, DeConstruction Services and Sustainable Occupancy Services. Its purpose is to accept tax-deductible used building material donations from Deconstruction Services (which does building tear-downs) and from builders and homeowners (thus keeping unwanted items out of the landfill), sell those products to the public at deeply discounted prices, use the proceeds to train various clients (e.g., at-risk youth, non-violent parolees, substance abuse clients, etc) for "green collar" jobs, and on their graduation, to place them in jobs with Rebuild, its sister and/or similar companies/organizations.

(2) Rebuild displayed photos showing examples of items available at their warehouse to renovate, remodel, preserve, or revitalize a home or an entire neighborhood – stacks of framing wood, doors, hardwood flooring; bags of insulation batts; rows of toilets, sinks, vanities, lighting fixtures, etc. They now also refinish hardwood floors. They'll pick up donated items and leave a tax deduction receipt therefor at no charge; they'll deliver purchases for a fee.

(3) They've already developed or are planning to develop training curricula in such "green collar" occupations as deconstruction, warehouse management, retail sales, home weatherization, solar panel installation, commercial woodworking, delivery truck driving, asbestos abatement, pesticide application, green roof installation, storm water management, tree planting, and wetland restoration.

(4) To thank members for attending tonight's meeting, he distributed coupons for a 20% store credit valid next month for all purchases made at Rebuild's warehouse this month. It's located at 6625-B Iron Place (near Washington Gas), Tel. 703-280-1719, and on the web at www.rebuildwarehouse.org.

b. Introduction of guest speaker, Robyn Carter, on the history of Springfield.

(1) Explaining her interest in Springfield as a resident of Arlington, Robyn said that when she grew up, her family often visited her aunt and uncle who lived on Backlick Road and she fell in love with their house. After their deaths, she wanted to buy it but the price precluded that. Instead, she learned its history and, from that, developed an on-going interest in the history of the entire community and its significance to this area. She learned that it's thanks to the 1940s foresight of developer Edward R. Carr and follow-on efforts by him and his two associates, Bernard Steinberg and E. Carl Hengen, that Springfield became probably the first and definitely the largest pre-planned city at that time in our area. She described the difficulties they had to overcome before Springfield could become a reality, e.g., years of effort to convince the utility companies to bring service this far out into the boonies.

(2) She explained that since communities/cities had previously developed helter-skelter rather than according to any large scale master plan, Mr. Carr's idea was truly innovative. Although it took years of planning and persuasion to make it a reality, it was buttressed by the critical need for family housing after WWII and by his intent to build this community half-way between the recently built Pentagon and the even further out Ft. Belvoir and right next to the then-new Shirley Highway (now I-395) which made this area accessible. Construction that began in 1951-52 was of overall high quality, but the Korean War resulted in shortages of some materials which explains the use of Orangeburg sewer pipes that many of us have had the joy replacing over the years since.

(3) She displayed her large collection of floor plans for the various model homes, pictures of their construction, ads (e.g., Washington Post) promoting their sale, and articles describing this new concept of living: Suburban homes with the newest appliances and everything else that homeowners would need built nearby (churches, parks, schools, shopping centers, commercial services) to relieve them from having to travel into DC for them. Prospective buyers had to agree to abide by strict covenants on height limits and appearance of the buildings/land to ensure that they were kept in harmony with the rest of the community. The articles and ads created excitement, and houses sold about as fast as they could be built, bringing in buyers wanting the pride of ownership in a community that made them feel "they'd arrived".

(4) Since members present tonight included one original owner, several second owners and many more recent owners of these homes, a lively Q&A session followed to elicit further information not covered in her presentation (which is far from fully covered here). Robyn concluded by saying that it's still her dream to own one of these homes and restore it to its original 1950s condition, so if members plan to upgrade their home's original amenities, e.g., kitchen cabinets, etc., she asked that they please let her know as she's interested in having them. She invited members to share with her any additional information and documentation about Springfield's history and development that they might have and placed her business cards on the display tables for use in contacting her by email at Bettygrbl@aol.com and Tel. 703-867-8207.

CLOSING and ADJOURNMENT: President Tawny thanked both Robyn and the Rebuild representatives, held the drawing for tonight's door prizes, reminded all that our next meeting is March 16, and invited members to stay after adjournment to look over the materials displayed and ask any further questions they might have for our sponsor and guest speaker. Many did, following adjournment at 9PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Merrill, Secretary