

Minutes
Springfield Civic Association Meeting
November 16, 2010
Crestwood Elementary School

OPENING: President Tawny Hammond opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Board of Directors (BOD) Officers Present:

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

Also Present:

Past President Rick Renninger
Hospitality Chair Sandy Frieswyk
Newsletter Chair Lee Paulson

BOD Officers Absent: Treasurer Bill Gaylord, DAL Gail Nittle.

ATTENDANCE. 30, reflecting the short time available to notify members of the change of venue plus the rainy weather.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

a. **Meeting Change of Venue.** President Tawny Hammond: Because there were too few exhibitors, tonight's planned joint Chamber of Commerce (CoC)-SCA BizFair meeting at Springfield Mall was cancelled last week causing this quick change of meeting venue to Crestwood School. Thanks to our guest speakers for accommodating the change and to our members for coming out to hear them on this rainy night. Thanks also to Nancy-jo Manney, Executive Director of CoC, and Sandy Frieswyk, SCA's Hospitality Chair for quickly ensuring we'd have refreshments available tonight.

a. **USPS Postage Refund.** President Tawny Hammond: SCA's Sep-Oct newsletter would have informed members in advance of the Sep meeting's change in venue to Grace Presbyterian Church but was misrouted and not delivered until after the meeting. SCA's request that USPS refund the cost of that mailing it was successful; funds have been returned.

b. **Lee H.S. PTSA's Lancerfest.** Member Ross Cameron invited all to this free-admission community event featuring raffle prizes, arts and crafts, music, food, student-sponsored activities, games and more on Sat., Nov 20, 10am-4pm.

c. **60th Anniversary Celebration of Fairfax County Park Authority.** On Dec 4th, 1-7pm, join President Tawny Hammond as Frying Pan Farm Park celebrates with an Old-Fashioned Country Christmas featuring children's holiday shopping, carolers, storytelling, equestrian demonstrations, bluegrass music, wagon rides, a holiday turkey prize and more. Check the Winter Parktakes magazine for Tawny's article and picture.

d. **Book Sale, Richard Byrd Library.** Member Claudia Moore invited all to shop a huge sale of used books that begins for Friends of the Library on Thurs evening, Dec 2, and continues for the general public starting at 10am, Dec 3-5.

e. **Plans for Upcoming Membership Meetings.** President Tawny Hammond:

(1) January's meeting topic will be Public Safety. DAL Gail Nittle is coordinating a list of items to be addressed.

(2) In March, a presentation on the big picture (options available) for long term care is being planned.

(3) For May, we're considering holding the meeting (with a tour) at the newly rebuilt Richard Byrd Library. Topics being considered are hearing from our elected officials and having a job fair for workers and volunteers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS. Land Use. Committee Chair Bruce Waggoner reported on redevelopment plans for the area, many stemming from expected population growth due to federal base realignment and closures (BRAC). Status updates are as follows:

(1) **Hunter Motel site across from Wendy's on Loisdale Road.** Possible future site of a hotel & restaurant. Talks are in the early stages.

(2) **Springfield Mall.** News (of substance this time) is expected soon.

(3) **Former Chi-Chi's Site.** Discussions are underway about building a hotel there that would mirror the design concept of the new Marriott Residence Inn.

(4) **Closed Tokyo Inn Steakhouse in Backlick Center.** Chick-fil-A is planning a restaurant to fill this space.

(5) **Springfield Gardens Apartments.** No updates yet on redevelopment progress.

(6) **Closed Pallone Chevrolet.** No firm plans yet but, with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's eastern campus slated to occupy the adjacent land, this would be a prime site for corporate offices and mixed use services.

NEW BUSINESS. Two guest speakers, Greater Springfield CoC Executive Director Nancy-jo Manney and Franconia Station Crime Prevention Officer, Master Police Officer (MPO) Jim Reid.

a. **Executive Director Manney:** The CoC, like all of us, wants to attract and retain high quality business tenants in our community to help make it a good place to live and work. One way each of us can help achieve that goal is by shopping local,

keeping those tax dollars in our community. Another way is by promoting our annual Springfield Days community festival. It's scheduled for June 2-6 next year, and its website at www.springfielddays.com invites you to sign up for email updates on the events being planned. Put it on your calendars to come out to enjoy those events and support the businesses that sponsor them. Good things are being planned for Springfield Mall and other local sites, like the incoming Chick-fil-A restaurant, and there's more to come. You're welcome to take a copy of the current CoC newsletter from tonight's Springfield Days display table. Her take-home message to each of us for keeping Springfield vibrant is Community x 3: Shop it, Promote it, Celebrate it.

b. **MPO Reid:** After introducing himself with a summary of his personal and professional background, Officer Reid offered the information and advice below on personal security. He also distributed a handout on how to play it safe over the holidays while shopping, traveling, at home and the office, and having a holiday party.

(1) The majority of the cases of thefts from vehicles come down to the visibility of valuable items inside, making them easy targets for a quick steal when doors are left unlocked or the locks are popped or a window broken. His advice: Always keep valuables out of sight; lock your doors.

(2) It's impossible to quantify how many crimes have been prevented by simple police presence. The sight of a police cruiser driving by may change the minds of those considering a criminal act. His advice: Call the police about unusual activity in your neighborhood, e.g., something happening on your street that doesn't look right, an unknown group hanging around on the corner, etc. Ask that an officer drive by and assess what's happening.

(3) He welcomes our email about matters of information or concern. He reads them all and responds based on time and priorities. If you don't get a response in a timely manner, please resend it. The day's pressures might have caused him to miss the first transmission. You can reach him at jreid1@fairfaxcounty.gov or James.Reid@fairfaxcounty.gov.

(4) Check often for newly posted information on the Franconia Station's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police. For example, when asked what a county solicitor's license looks like so we'd know what to look for when asking to see a door-to-door solicitor's license, he did the research, answered that inquirer, then added the information as a bulletin on the website for the information of all.

(5) Regarding loitering at the Backlick Road 7-Eleven, it's still a chargeable offense, but the county attorney concluded that the law is unenforceable because judges often dismiss the charges based on the view that, as written, the law is overly broad. Further, while there's been cooperation from Concord Plaza merchants, there's been no cooperation from the 7-Eleven management who fail to tell loiterers to leave the property and call the police when they don't, leaving the police no grounds to intervene. However, 7-Eleven has a complaint process on its corporate website (www.corp.7-eleven.com) which provides residents an avenue to request corporate action to resolve the situation at this site.

(6) Asked for any further information on the 2006 murders of Marion Marshall and Marion Newman of Springfield, he said the cases are still being actively investigated by the cold case (no immediate action in progress) squad.

CLOSING.

a. 1st VP Bruce Waggoner closed the meeting by thanking our guest speakers for coming to share their information and advice with us.

b. He reminded members of the Franconia District Police Station's monthly Citizens Advisory Committee meeting tomorrow night at 7:30. It will be preceded at 6pm by a training presentation similar to what the police recently received about county resources available for assisting the homeless.

c. DAL Bonnie Pritchard announced the door prizes for holders of the tickets drawn by Officer Reid. Prizes were awarded as follows:

- (1) \$10 Chili's gift card to Nancy-jo M.
- (2) \$20 Chili's gift card to Dan P.
- (3) Huntington Learning Center free student diagnostic test certificate to Dorothy H
- (4) Huntington Learning Center free student diagnostic test certificate to Diane B.
- (5) \$25 CVS gift card to Rick R.
- (6) \$30 Macaroni Grill gift card to Jim H.
- (7) 2 box-seat tickets and parking for the Dec 12 game at FedEx Field (\$1000 value) to Nicole B.
- (8) A Silver Diner gift card for a free shake or dessert with any entree purchase to each BOD officer present.

ADJOURNMENT. 1st VP Waggoner adjourned the meeting at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Merrill
Secretary