



**Falls Church
Village Preservation & Improvement
Society (VPIS)**

FINAL MINUTES

**Membership Meeting
Sunday, November 16, 2008; 3:00 – 5:00 pm
City of Falls Church Community Center**

Present: *Officers:* Jeff Peterson, Karl Ensign, Barry Buschow, Ida Peterson

Directors: Nancy Brandon, Jon Hundley, Ruth Rodgers, Gerald Pressman, Carol Sly, Gordon Theisz, Keith Thurston, Michael Volpe, Michael Slonim, and Mark and Ellen Gross, Mary Soule, and Elizabeth Meade

Absent: Melissa Teates, Roger-Mark De Souza, Midge Wang

Call to order: 3:05 pm

Welcome: President Jeff Peterson welcomed VPIS members, guests, and City Manager Wyatt Shields, the guest speaker for the meeting.

Business Meeting

1) **Society Accomplishments and Activities:** Vice President Karl Ensign and other members of the Board described the accomplishments and activities of VPIS over the past several months. Key topics discussed included:

- Independence Day Readings;
- Summer Concerts in the Park;
- City Signs;
- VPIS comment on proposed revision of the City Zoning Code;
- The Neighborhood Tree Program and the new PHASE II of the program;
- The Farmer's Market Booth operations;
- VPIS participation in the Fall Festival;
- VPIS participation in Watch Night; and
- The New Community Grant Program.

2) **Treasurer's Report:** Ida Peterson reported on the status of funding for VPIS. VPIS has substantial balances of funds, including \$22,899 in unrestricted funds and \$32,580 in restricted funds (e.g. Tree Fund, Arbor Day Commons Fund). VPIS income for 2008 through September was \$18,697. Expenses for the same period were \$14,862.

3) **Election of Officers for 2009:** Nominations Committee Chair (Mike Volpe) and members (Ruth Rodgers and Carol Sly) presented the nomination of VPIS Officers for 2009: Jeff Peterson, President; Karl Ensign, Vice President; Ida Peterson, Treasurer; Melissa Teates, Recording Secretary; and Barry Buschow; Corresponding Secretary. The nominations were seconded and approved by the membership. The Nominations Committee then presented the reappointments of Gordon Theisz, Ruth Rodgers, Roger-Mark De Souza and Michael Volpe for the Board of Directors for terms ending December 31, 2011 and the nomination of Peter and Riva Adriance for a position on the Board of Directors for a term ending December 31, 2011. The nominations were seconded and approved by the membership.

4) **VPIS Awards:** Awards Committee Chair Barry Buschow presented the Louise Sheppard Award recognizing VPIS members who have made a significant contribution to the success of VPIS to Nancy Brandon. Barry noted Nancy's strong support of VPIS activities over many years and her leadership in managing the 2008 Attic Treasures sale (the principal fundraiser for VPIS).

5) **Program: Report of the Falls Church City Manager:** Falls Church City Manager Wyatt Shields was the guest speaker for the meeting and presented a report on the status of key projects in the City of interest to VPIS. Topics addressed by Mr. Shields included:

- the City Budget and the implications of the downturn in the economy;
- the Capital Improvement Program, including needs for facilities such as schools, libraries, and the City Hall;
- the strong condition of the City pension fund;
- the need for a dedicated source of funding to address stormwater needs;
- the importance of a new agreement to support increased recycling through "single stream" recycling;
- the potential for changes to the Atlantic Realty project in the City Center;
- the City interest in addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from City operations and the City more generally; and
- a range of other topics.

A question and answer period followed in which Mr. Shields addressed additional topics including the potential for replacement of facilities for persons with learning disabilities.

Adjourn to Social

Meeting Closed at 5:30 pm; Minutes prepared by Jeff Peterson and Gordon Theisz