

# **Falls Church Village Preservation & Improvement Society**

May 11, 2006 Board of Directors Meeting  
At home of Ellen and Mark Gross, 303 Lincoln Avenue

## **Approved Minutes**

**Present:** *Officers:* Jeff Peterson, Ida Peterson, David Eckert, Keith Thurston

*Directors:*, Mark/Ellen Gross, Jon Hundley, Annette Mills, Ruth Rodgers, Jerry Pressman, Marian Starr, Mike Slonim, Michael Volpe

**Absent:**, Barry Buschow, Nancy Brandon, Jason Douglas, Karl Ensign, Midge Wang

**Guest:** Carol Sly

**Call to Order:** 7:40 pm

### **Attic Treasurer Results and Lessons learned**

Marian Starr discussed the success of the Sale and thanked the Board for their support. Suggestions were made for increased promotional mailings, importance of thanking the truck loan businesses, and encouraging businesses (like Foxes has done) to donate items they can't sell for Attic Treasures. Total gross 2006 Sale receipts of \$6,498.10 as compared to \$5,725.16 for 2005. It was noted that the Gym has to be reserved now to insure availability for next year.

### **May 29 Memorial Day Table and Parade**

Mike Volpe, Mike Slonim, Jon Hundley and Jeff Peterson agreed to help Dave Eckert staff the table. Barry Buschow will get an antique car for the parade and Midge Wang will provide costuming. Additional volunteers are needed for the parade entry.

### **June General Membership Meeting**

Gerald Pressman presented the proposed meeting agenda which includes presentations on "bikable communities" and affordable housing. The Board made suggestions for wording and strategic changes, which were approved by the Board. Mills moved, Rodgers seconded, the Board approved the following motion unanimously:

**MOTION: The Society will donate \$100 to the Housing Corporation for the use of the room.**

### **Farmers Market**

Dave Eckert discussed the opening of the 14<sup>th</sup> season of the Society's Village Center Booth at the Farmers Market on Saturday, May 13. the Booth will be operational every Saturday morning (when not raining) from 8:00 am – Noon through the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in November. Morning set-up time is 7:00 am. Breakdown of the booth takes about 30 minutes. Eckert requested Board members sign-up if they wish to volunteer to help staff the booth. Eckert hopes the booth raises about \$3,500 for the Tree Fund. Board members discussed how the booth is a principle exposure of the Society to the Community and that the booth should be more effective at increasing society membership . Eckert asked for suggestions and volunteers.

### **Summer Concerts in the Park**

Dave Eckert discussed the 14<sup>th</sup> season of the Society's Summer Concerts in Cherry Hill Park which opens on Thursday, June 22 at 7:00 pm. Eckert asked for volunteers to help administer the concerts and the Society Booth at the concerts.

## **Business Meeting (items for Board action):**

### **1. Minutes from the April 2006 Meeting**

Following discussion and minor amendments, Keith Thurston moved Mike Slonim seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the April, 2006 Society Minutes as amended

### **2. Treasurers Report**

Ida Peterson announced the Society has \$34,157.67 in the treasury. The Society has taken in more money in membership and Attic Treasures Sale than expected.

Following a discussion of the donation made to the Society at the April, 2006 meeting, Dave Eckert moved, Ellen Gross seconded and the board voted the following motion unanimously.

**MOTION : The Society agrees to move the donated \$3,500 from the April, 2006 Society meeting into the restricted Tree fund.**

### **3. Second Reading - Arbor Day Commons Design**

Following a presentation by Dave Eckert and a Board discussion of the Arbor Day Commons, Keith Thurston moved, Mike Volpe seconded, Board voted unanimously in favor of second funding motion.

**MOTION: The Society Board approves second reading of allocating \$1,000 for the Arbor Day Commons from general fund to be released to commission a Landscape Architect for the concept design of The Arbor Day Commons.**

### **4. Purchase of a tent for festivals and events**

Following a brief discussion of a request by President Buschow to purchase a tent to be used for festivals and other events, Keith Thurston moved, Ellen Gross seconded and the Board approved unanimously the following motion:

**MOTION: \$125 to purchase a tent to be used at festivals.**

## **501(C)(3) Application Update**

Keith Thurston reported the Society received a letter from the IRS with 17 questions. Also, Thurston reported the IRS is requiring some by-laws changes that will be voted by the membership at the June meeting. Thurston further reported the Society is currently waiting for a response from IRS regarding a final determination.

### **Sue Olom Garden**

Gerald Pressman provided a survey sketch of the design site and a list of related items discussed with the Assistant City Manager. Pressman informed the Board of the status and that the project is moving forward, with the City picking up the majority of the costs and the work involved. The City will replace entrance signs and will design the garden. Pressman recommended that the Society fund materials for the garden and repair of one entrance sign. Ruth Rodgers reported that in 1995, the Attic Treasures Sales netted \$5,633 and the Board that year had said that "a portion" of those funds would go toward this garden. That portion was never defined. The Board agreed to wait until a budget is prepared prior to voting an appropriation.

## **Membership Update for 2006**

Annette Mills requested assistance from Board members to help make calls to former members to renew their membership, as approximately 60 2005 members still have outstanding bills for 2006. Most Board members agreed to assist in the calls. The membership count is now at about 290 active members.

## **Virginia 2007**

Dave announced the “Doors of Perception” is being proposed as a Quadricentennial Event for Falls Church Arts and that 18 vintage 1893 doors, originally donated by Marian Starr from her home on North Cherry Street and stored since 1999 at Dave Eckert’s garage will be turned into art pieces in much the same fashion as the donkeys and elephants of Washington, D.C. The project will hopefully be partnered with a tour of the doors of Falls Church. Eckert proposed the Society consider participating.

## **Book and Merchandise Update (Ruth)**

The Society agreed to market the books through realtors and developers.

## **Pearson Funeral Home Site**

Ellen Gross asked if the Board was taking a position on the Pearson Funeral Home site development. The Board has not taken a position to date, but is watching the process.

## **Presidents Garden**

Ellen Gross recommended that the Board consider getting professional assistance to maintain the President’s Garden. As the land is owned by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, the Board will approach the Park Authority for advice.

## **Bike Trail Elwood Street Memorial Bench and Shelter**

Jeff Peterson discussed the deteriorating condition of the Elwood Street Bench on the Bike Trail just west of Little Falls Street on the south side of the trail. He indicated that his son, Jamie is researching the issues surrounding rehabilitating the structure and the plaque and organizing the rehab through an Eagle Scout initiative. Jeff said his son will present his information later this year.

## **Christian Science Reading Room**

Keith Thurston reported that the Christian Science Reading Room on Little Falls Street is at risk again for demolition by a developer. Keith asked permission to forward the letter previously written to Council. The Board agreed.

## **Out-of Compliant Sites in the City**

Keith Thurston met with Joe Pelletier, formerly of the Board of Zoning Appeals, noting 10 additional sites out of compliance. Keith recommended that the Board send out an additional letter to supplement our former letter, adding the 10 new sites that were out of zoning compliance and never forwarded to the BZA for approval. The Board agreed.

## **West End Park Land**

Following a discussion a discussion of the Council’s proposal to rezone a portion of the addition to West End Park, Eckert moves, Mills seconds, passed unanimously:

**MOTION: The Board authorizes the President to study the issue of West End parkland and to craft a letter that will help to ensure that the land remains a park with the most appropriate zoning.**

## **110 Great Falls Street**

Following a discussion of the proposed rezoning of 110 Great Falls Street to commercial property, the Board tabled the item for lack of information.

## **ADJOURN 9:50 PM**