



Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society

Final Minutes

October 18, 2009; 7:30 p.m.

205 Tyson Drive

City of Falls Church, Va.

Host: Jeff Peterson

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

Directors: Mark & Ellen Gross, Keith Thurston, Karl Ensign, Mary Soule, Barry Buschow, Ruth Rodgers, Carol Sly, Michael Volpe, Midge Wang, and Jon Hundley.

Guests: Barbara Cram for presentation on Frady Park/ Virginia Arbor Day Commons. Gerald Pressman to report on projects.

Absent: Ida Peterson, Melissa Teates, Gordon Theisz, Peter & Riva Adriance, Tom Clinton, Elizabeth Meade, Mike Slonim, Nancy Brandon, Roger-Mark Desouza,

Call to order: 7:40 pm

Welcome: President Jeff Peterson welcomed everyone.

BUSINESS MEETING

1) Minutes from September 10, 2009 Meeting: The Board voted unanimous approval after a discussion about the revision of the wording in the minutes concerning the VPIS Awards item 5. The minutes are corrected to read as follows:

Action: Motion: The Board votes a second vote to approve the \$1,000 approved for the Society Awards (including the Spirit of Falls Church Award), first reading at the meeting of September 10th, 2009, and provides first reading for an additional \$1,500 for the same purpose to raise the total to \$2,500. A second reading will be held on this at a future meeting.

Motion by: Mike Volpe and Second by Keith Thurston
The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

2) Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was provided with total for all accounts is \$54,415.82 with \$35,853.63 in restricted funds (tree fund, NTP, Arbor Day memorial). Unrestricted funds total \$18,983.63. The report was accepted on a voice vote.

3) Slate of VPIS Officers and Directors for 2010: The agenda was amended to move this item to the end of the agenda.

4) VPIS Major Program Options

Based on the last meeting discussion, Barry Buschow led an open planning meeting on the subject of major projects the Board may consider. The meeting was held on September 26, 2009 at Stacey's Coffee Café, that included approximately 8 board members. The results of the many projects considered was a recommendation to the board consider the following:

- The pole clock from the First Union Bank proffer funds made in the 1990's to the City plus any additional funds needed by VPIS.
- The development of Arbor day Commons in Frady park
- The improvement in Cherry Hill Park.

Discussion: The City is in very difficult financial condition with a \$4 Million deficit in the FY2009 budget and projected revenue in FY2010 budget of \$66M. Capital Improvement program projects throughout the city have been deleted from the budget. Therefore VPIS projects may be the only efforts of improvements in the City this year.

The concept of assisting the library with the local history area with \$10,000 was raised.

Barbara Cram provided an update on the planning of the Virginia Arbor Day Commons. Approximately \$20K has been promised from others including \$10K in the VPIS Treasury. The original plans were estimated to cost \$140,000, which was reduced to \$70,000 on last year's versions. The current plan has been simplified and projected to cost \$40,000. Barbara is attempting to get companies to provide some services at costs.

Action(s): Motion: The VPIS Board commits \$15,000 of funds to the Arbor Day Commons Project and recognizes the funds (from others) in the restricted funds of the VPIS Treasury of \$10,212 designated for this project, and the VPIS Board will have final approval on the plans. We support the Victorian reproduction pole clock in the traffic island on Broad Street at Little Falls Street to be acquired and implemented with the proffered Funds from the First Union Bank, and may add additional VPIS funds if necessary, and support the further research of possible improvements in Cherry Hill Park.

Motion: By Barry Buschow, seconded by Keith Thurston

Amendment: To change the amount of Arbor Day Commons to \$10,000.

Motion made by Mark Gross seconded by Karl Ensign.

Vote by hand count: 5 in favor of the amendment and 6 opposed, the amendment failed.

Vote on the original motion: By voice vote, passed unanimously.

5) Watch Night: Barbara Cram provided an overall update about Watch Night. Fairfax County will make the portable stage/truck available without charge. Fairfax had indicated earlier that, for the first time, that they would not make available or charge for it. Karl Ensign indicated that if we provided the Swing Band for Watch Night at the Presbyterian Church that it will cost \$2250. After discussions about the poor attendance at some of our traditional line dancing offerings in past years the issue moved to motion.

Action(s): Motion: The Board approves spending of \$2250 for the Swing band to be held at the Presbyterian Church New Years Eve. If this does not become possible – VPIS will not hold a venue this year.

Motion made by Karl Ensign, seconded by Mark Gross. The motion passed passed unanimously on voice vote. (This is a first reading of this larger amount; the approved budget provided for \$1000.)

6. Cay Wiant Memorial Committee (Ellen Gross), indicate that the committee had spoke with her widower-husband Jon Wiant who did not have a preference for the type of memory of Cay that VPIS pursued. The committee will meet to provide ideas.

7. Neighborhood Tree Program (NTP): Fall planting dates and potential for VPIS to offer payment of program costs in FY 2010 (i.e.: this Fall and next Spring) in letter to City was discussed. The planting events this fall are October 31 and November 14. After discussion of the issues surrounding the City's ability to buy trees this year the issue moved to motion.

Action(s): Motion that VPIS approve the expenditure of \$2,000 from the tree fund for trees for the NTP in the event that the City funding for the planting for this fall is rescinded from the City budget.

Motion made by Barry Buschow and seconded by Mike Volpe and passed unanimously on voice vote.

8) Slate of VPIS Officers and Directors for 2010: The Nominations Committee (Mike Volpe, Chair, Ruth Rodgers and Carol Sly), provided in a motion a slate of officers and directors as a slate to be voted by the membership in the November Membership Meeting.

Action(s): Motion: The Nomination Committee submits the following to be Board for consideration as a slate of candidates to be voted by the membership in the November Membership Meeting:

**President: Karl Ensign
Vice President: Michael Volpe
Correspondence Secretary: Barry Buschow
Treasurer: Melissa Teates
Recording Secretary: No nomination yet.
Past President: Jeff Peterson (by by-laws)**

(continued)

Director: Nancy Brandon
Director: Mark and Ellen Gross
Director: Jon Hundley
Director: Elizabeth Meade
Director: Keith Thurston

Motioned by Michael Volpe and seconded by Mark Gross. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

9.) VPIS Design Awards for Fall (Keith Thurston) - The advertisement for nominations was emailed and postcards were sent to members, an announcement will be made in the Village Way newsletter. We have three nominations thus far.

10.) Fall VPIS Newsletter (Ruth Rogers) – A Village Way Newsletter will be sent out prior to the Fall Membership Meeting and will include the nomination of officers and directors.

11.) VPIS November Membership Meeting (Karl Ensign) – The Fall meeting will have history readings by the Victorian Society as added interest to the meeting. It will also include the Design Awards and the annual election of officers and some directors.

12. VPIS Old Board/ New Board Dinner Meeting of the Board (Ellen Gross) - Ellen indicated that the annual dinner for the Board and a few honorary guests will be on December 10, at La Cote d'Or and provided the menu. A discussion was held concerning the cost, invitees and cost distribution.

Action(s): Motion: The Board will approve funding of up to \$800 in contingency funds for the Old Board- New Board Dinner with Board Members paying the difference in costs. Ellen will inform us of the amount each should pay. The wine and coffee will be by cash bar.

Motioned by Ellen Gross, seconded by Keith Thurston. The motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

13. City Entrance Signs – Gerald Pressman reported that the signs to mark the City secondary entrances have been delivered and installed and the project has been completed.

14. City Marketing - Keith Thurston reported that the process is still on-going. Only two meeting with the committee have been held and recent meeting have been cancelled.

15. Arts and Culture Commission- Midge Wang reported that the Commission has been made a permanent body within the City and that a consolidated web based City calendar was been sought to help all of the groups with scheduling and avoiding event a and meeting conflicts.

16. George (local bus to Metro) Taskforce (Barry Buschow) – Barry indicated that he is now the official VPIS representative, but the group has not met – and the Council has made its decision to move forward with a change in rates. He awaits the meeting..

17. Scout House Landscape Project Report: (Barry Buschow) – Rain garden is installed and growing well.

18. Friends of Falls Church Homeless Shelter – Jeff Peterson indicated that we had a request for VPIS to provide a person every Monday night (6 pm) through the cold months to provide volunteer staff to assist the paid staff at the homeless shelter. The Board agrees to publish the request in the Village Way. Those interested should call 571-218-5411

Adjourn to Social at 10:05pm

Recorded and Submitted: Keith Thurston, (Substitute)