



FALLS CHURCH  
VILLAGE PRESERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT  
SOCIETY

## APPROVED MINUTES

Fall Membership Meeting  
November 9, 2006  
The Falls Church

**Present:** *Officers:* Barry Buschow, Jeff Peterson, Ida Peterson, Melissa Teates  
*Directors:* Karl Ensign, Jon Hundley, Jerry Pressman, Ruth Rodgers, Michael Slonim, Carol Sly, Marian Starr, Gordon Theisz, Keith Thurston, Michael Volpe, Midge Wang

**Absent:** Nancy Brandon, Mark & Ellen Gross, Elizabeth Meade

**Guests:** Barbara Cram, Jason Douglas, Seth Hemingway, Dan Maller

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**Call to Order:** 7:45

**Welcome:** President Barry Buschow welcomed everyone to the Fall Membership Meeting.

**Updates on Society Efforts:**

- Barry Buschow reminded the membership that *VPIS now has 501c3 status* meaning that all donations are tax deductible.
- Jeff Peterson reviewed *zoning issues* and reported on the two new ordinances under considerations by the City Council to reduce the height allowed on substandard lots and to limit total impervious surface allowed during construction that disturbs more than 2,500 sq. ft. VPIS submitted a letter in support of the two ordinances. Jeff mentioned the Environmental Services Council desire to have a city policy for green development based on LEEDS. Jeff also reviewed the new *Deliberative Democracy Program* which will train High School students and citizens on how to facilitate discussion on community issues. The program is planning a training session this winter and an event in the spring on tax rates, affordable housing and global warming. Jeff and Karl Ensign are representing VPIS.
- Ida Peterson reported on the *Treasurer's Report*. VPIS is in a strong financial position with net income of \$18,000 for projects next year. The Arbor Day Commons project received \$1,900 in donation at the Dave & Annette Farewell Event that was 100% matched by an anonymous donor.

- Michael Volpe reported that he *audited VPIS financial records*, minutes, and bank statements for the calendar year 2005 and everything seemed to be in order.
- Carol Sly reported that *membership* continues to grow and she plans to have a letter out in November to request members to re-up.
- Karl Ensign reported on *affordable housing* saying that with changing times that there is a real need for a variety of housing options in the city. We need a housing policy that will preserve our sense of community and we need to work with the city to get develop it.
- Seth Hemingway reported on the *Tree Program* including on several events in October to mulch street trees. Planning for a model mulching tree event or display is in the works to encourage citizens to mulch correctly. Another tree planting and mulching event is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup>. A change on how citizens are informed about street tree planting is also underway changing it from opt-in to an opt-out, i.e. a letter stating we are planting a tree in the city right-of-way in front of your property please contact us if you would rather we do not.
- Gerald Pressman reported on progress for the *Sue Olom garden*. Jill-Ann Spence has okayed the project so now VPIS just needs an o.k. from VDOT. The garden will be located in the median on the east end of Broad Street at the Seven's Corner entrance to the city. It was planned as a fall project but may become a spring project. Also progressing is the purchase of eight *new city signs* including smaller signs for entrances on streets like West Street. VPIS will be purchasing the signs and the city will reimburse the costs.
- Gordon Theisz reported that the dates for the *Summer Concert* series have been set (Thursdays between June 21<sup>st</sup> and August 2<sup>nd</sup>) and band scouting has begun.
- Jon Hundley (spoke for Elizabeth Meade) reported that *VPIS Booth at the Farmer's Market* is going well, but they could use more volunteers for the shifts. The fundraising efforts the booth (coffee, drinks and books) have gone well.
- Marian Starr reported that the *Attic Treasures* sale would be the first weekend in May (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>) and volunteers will be needed for sorting plus manning the event. Also, set aside any good quality goods for the sale. This is a major fundraising event for VPIS.
- Ruth Rodgers reported that *book sales* are going well. We have a lot of civil war books and a good selection of other books still available.
- Mike Slonim reported that plans for *Arbor Day 2007* are underway for April 21<sup>st</sup> at Frady Park.

- City Councilman, Dan Maller, spoke briefly about his *recent law suit* to stop development on Lincoln Avenue that is counter to our zoning code. The lawsuit was dismissed at Circuit Court due to the Judge's contention that the zoning administrator has the right to interpret code – the case was dismissed before evidence was heard. The case will be appealed to the Virginia Supreme Court. Support is needed from citizens on updating our zoning code.
- Barry Buschow made two more announcements: 1) There is a *board position open* for Publicist/Newsletter and *pictures from the Dave-Annette party* are available at [www.bbppix.com](http://www.bbppix.com)

**Election of Officers and Board Member:** The Nominating Committee (Ruth Rodgers & Michael Volpe) presented Nancy Brandon, Keith Thurston, Mark & Ellen Gross, Jon Hundley and Elizabeth Meade for position on the Board of Directors for terms ending December 2009.

**Motion: The full slate for Board of Directions was elected unanimously.**

**Falls Church Center City Update:** Keith Thurston reported on the new transportation report for the City Center. The plan was unique because it centered on the concept that we should “take back our streets” and including street parking on Broad Street that would help businesses and slow traffic on route 7. The report also suggested adding some new roads including one parallel to Washington Street behind the State Theater, adding pedestrian roadways, and other traffic calming measures like circles.

**Preserving Our Historic Assets and Community:**

Barbara Cram reported the city's program in support of *Virginia 2007 – America's 400th Anniversary*. Barbara Cram is the City of Falls Church, Anniversary Chair. The committee includes city, business and citizen representatives. Some of the events/projects include: the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary represented on city car stickers, a food service guide for the city called Treats & Eats, tabletop Falls Church history pieces for restaurants, photo essays in shop windows, an expanded Watch Night, the Arbor Day Commons project, Garden Tour, re-doing DAR garden, etc.

Peter Behr, Chairman, Preservation Partners Task Force, spoke about the *Preservation Challenges in Falls Church* and the mission of the task force to toughen the code in regards to saving historical buildings. Much of the code now is voluntary or not tough enough to save historical buildings. The task force is looking at incentives including tax breaks to increase the likelihood that historical buildings would be saved. The development of new historic districts may also be helpful. The task force would also like to develop Design Guidelines for developers and would like VPIS support when it is presented to the City Council.

**Presentation of the “Virginia Village Award”:** Keith Thurston presented the award to Joan & George Burgess in recognition for all their hard work in restoring the Cherry Hill

Farm Farmhouse and Barn. And, for the hours of volunteer time they put in to support projects and events at Cherry Hill Farm.

**Adjourned at 9:25 to Social**