

DRAFT

**LAFAYETTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
SEMIANNUAL MEETING**

Monday, May 11, 2009

**Mason District Government Center
6507 Columbia Pike
Annandale VA 22003**

7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joaquin Tremols	President
Kathie French	Vice President
Sean Walsh	Treasurer [late]
Jay Jarvis	Secretary
Michelle Krahn	Member at Large

PROPERTY MANAGER:

Diane Tschirhart KPA, Inc.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Barbara Seaman Recording Secretary, Minute-By-Minute

I. Call to Order:

Mr. Tremols called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. Proof of Proxies:

Mr. Tremols said that there were 3 total proxies. Mr. Jarvis then said that the Association was well short of a quorum and could not vote on anything.

III. Guest Speakers:

Penny Gross: Ms. Gross said that on Earth Day April 25, she accepted the 2009 Friends of Trees Award from the Fairfax County Tree Commission on behalf of Lafayette Village. She presented the plaque to Mr. Tremols who credited the Grounds Committee for the award.

[Mr. Walsh arrived at 7:09 p.m.]

Vivian Watts: Beginning with activities on the General Assembly side, Ms. Watts said that since the state has been hit hard by the economic downturn, cuts were started in 2007.

Minute-By-Minute

She also said that because construction, gas, and car sales were down, the transportation budget has been reduced by half. She added that the budget was passed after the state received the first stimulus package. A significant amount of money, she said, was going to the infrastructure and to change Medicaid reimbursement to 55% from the federal government. She also said that stimulus relieved the budget somewhat on education. She added that a little was done on energy in terms of non-food production of ethanol and leases to energy companies without affecting marine resources negatively. She then referred to the passage of the statewide ban on indoor smoking in restaurants, as well as outdoor facilities and public buildings. The ban goes into effect on December 1, 2009. In response to a question on increasing the gas tax, Ms. Watts said it has not been increased in 20 years and that the tax goes to road construction, state subsidies for Metro, and maintenance of roads the budget for which has been cut.

Turning to the subject of the Hot Lanes, Ms. Watts said that civic associations have helped the Commonwealth Transportation Board so that some money was diverted to the reforestation, landscaping and sound walls related to the Hot Lanes project. She also said that part of that money would be used by the local committee to employ a landscape architect to plan for replacing trees that were lost. Replying to a question on the portion of the \$90 million going to the rail project at Tysons, Ms. Watts said that the rail budget was separate. In terms of the gap in sound walls at Lafayette Village, Mr. Tremols said that the engineering study did not recommend closing the gap. He also said that the study recommended higher sound walls. In terms of land involved in eminent domain, Mr. Iddings said that the amount of land appropriated increased to 3 times the original amount after the appraisal. Ms. Watts then said she was pushing for the kind of plantings like the ones on Loisdale Road as a standard for neighborhood preservation landscaping. She also said that VDOT was trying to cooperate with Fairfax County and local groups. Replying to a question about closing the VDOT office at Springfield Mall, Ms. Watts said that mall locations were a lease issue and that major rest centers near Northern Virginia were also being closed. Turning to foreclosures, Ms. Watts said that she was recommending industry standards for banks.

[Ms. Watts left the meeting at 7:48 p.m.]

Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors: Ms. Bulova credited Ms. Watts for advocating reforestation and sound walls in the Hot Lanes project. She also said that the community helped make the project work. She added that by 2011, there will be 4 new lanes in each direction and that the official opening will be in 2013 although the changes should be visible by 2012. Ms. Bulova then said that Lafayette Village is a model of temporary management for traffic calming measures. Mr. Tremols said that the Association sent a letter and is waiting for a response. Ms. Bulova replied that she would work with Ms. Gross on moving forward since the community should not have to wait. In terms of public safety issues, Ms. Bulova said that she spoke to Officer Perez who has offered to speak to the community about actions residents can take.

Ms. Bulova then discussed the financial state of the County. She said that the elements of the County budget affected by the economic downturn have been real estate tax revenue, car taxes, business and professional license taxes, and a small amount of the sales taxes. She also said that residential property values have decreased by 12.6 %, the steepest drop in Fairfax County since the Depression. She added that before the budget was passed, community dialogues were held to create a holistic budget. As a result, she said, the tax rate was increased to \$1.04 plus 1cent dedicated to storm water management or infrastructure. She added that because of the falling property values, the tax rate decreased by an average of \$54. She also said that some human services and some public safety programs were restored and schools were kept at the same level as the 2009 budget. Turning to the rail to Dulles project now under way, Ms. Bulova said that \$900 million was from the federal government, the rest coming from the businesses along the Dulles corridor and from the state. She added that Metro service should begin by 2013 and that landowners and developers would be working together to make it an attractive, walking area with signature art at the stations. Furthermore, she said that the Board was pushing for bus service on the 2nd Hot Lanes project from the Pentagon to the Dumfries area and on the 2nd phase to Spotsylvania not yet approved. She referred homeowners to the monthly update on the Chairman's website. One resident suggested doing something about the timing of the lights between Route 236 and Beauregard Street as well as at Route 236 at Evergreen, and Route 236 and Prosperity. Another resident asked that the Board address the day laborer problem that affects commerce and makes some uncomfortable. Ms. Bulova said that Ms. Gross was attempting to find an appropriate location for workers, but that a site was not in the budget. She also said that local and state governments were urged to take action but without funding. She added that she would mention to Congressman Connolly the problems with day laborers and illegals. One resident thanked the Chairman for not closing senior centers. Ms. Bulova replied that the Board came up with savings and increased fees and that seniors have been vocal and made suggestions.

[Ms. Bulova left the meeting at 8:29 p.m.]

Mr. Tremols then presented the awards for former Communications Committee Chair Kristin Walsh and for former Architectural Control Committee Chair Susan Lee.

Mr. Tremols also cited a letter from the Northern Virginia Soil and Conservation District agreeing to assist in conducting a feasibility study for a rain garden.

IV. Committee Reports:

A. ACC Report: Mr. Tremols said that the committee met and denied a homeowner's request because the proposed changes did not meet the architectural control guidelines.

B. Communications: Mr. Iddings said that the newsletters were done every other month and that the website was updated with agenda items, meeting notices, announcements, and all relevant documents. He cited the web address as www.lafayettevillage.org. He also said that the community had a mailing list with breaking announcements posted once or twice a week.

C. Grounds Committee: Mr. Jarvis reported that the community had a garden this year and has rented 10 plots behind the pool house. He also said that on Arbor Day a ceremonial tree and 4 other trees were planted and both a cookout and a community cleanup were held. In terms of plans for the year, Mr. Jarvis distributed recommendations for trees and erosion prevention. He also cited the study for the rain garden to combat erosion while creating a healthy environment. He added that a survey of trees was being conducted to determine types, locations, and condition of the trees and actions to be taken.

D. Finance Committee: Mr. Walsh reported that he received a draft of the 2008 audit. He also said that \$40,000 was transferred to reserves and another \$70,000 should be transferred this year. He also said that this year there was \$20,000 in bad debt. Mr. Iddings suggested that the Board write a letter explaining the impact of foreclosures on the community and supporting Ms. Watts' efforts in the legislature.

D. Pool and Recreation: The Chair said that applications for pool passes were extended to Friday and that a late fee of \$25 would be charged after the deadline. She added that the pool would open on Saturday, May 23rd at 11:30 a.m. She also said that a yard sale would be held on Saturday (rain date Sunday). Mr. Jarvis added that the management company rethreaded the valves of the tanks and saved the community money.

E. Neighborhood Watch: Mr. Iddings said a training session from the County was held and that people have signed up to do patrols and that more should volunteer for patrols during the day. He suggested that volunteers sign up at fred300@gmail.com. Another project of the Committee is the traffic calming already discussed. Mr. Iddings also said that the crime rate was low by County standards and that most crime was breaking into cars. He added that the neighborhood could be even safer with a community watch.

V. Homeowner Comments:

- One owner asked about the total number of vacant houses in the community. Mr. Tremols replied that he did not know but that foreclosures are rampant.
- An owner asked about the percentage of units owned versus rented. Ms. Tschirhart said that 291 homes were owner-occupied and 24, or 8 %, were owned by investors.

- One owner said that the County was willing to investigate overcrowding. Mr. Tremols said that residents must report suspected cases of overcrowding.
- An owner said that since the covenants state that owners may not rent rooms, the newsletter should post a reminder. Mr. Iddings said that several articles have already been published and that owners should report cases to the Board which can handle them individually.

VI. Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

VII. New Business:

There was no new business to discuss.

VIII. Executive Session:

The Board did not hold an Executive Session.

IX. Adjournment:

MOTION: Mr. Jarvis moved, Mr. Walsh seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

E.J.Jarvis II
Secretary