**Canterbury Woods Civic Association Meeting Minutes**

Date: May 7, 2013

Location: Braddock Hall

Board Members Present: Liz d’Alelio, Susan DiMaina, Andy Kokkinis, Kathy Anderson, Ron Minionis

Topic: General Membership Meeting

1. Meeting started at 7:01 p.m.
2. Cub Scouts from Pack 873 performed Color Guard opening ceremony and Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Liz opened with remarks on CWCA accomplishments since the current board took office.
4. Kathy presented the treasurer’s report. Approximately $12,700 beginning balance, $4400 revenues, $7000 expenses, $10,000 ending balance.
5. Kathy presented the proposed budget for the next fiscal year, Projecting $8900 in revenues and $10,000 expenses.
   1. Budget was approved by voice vote with no objections.
6. Susan discussed dues.
   1. The benefits they fund.
   2. 212 houses have paid so far, approximately 41% of CW community.
   3. Total $4910, averaging about 423/house.
7. Tom Reinkober thought the directory ad revenue could be higher and offered to assist with increasing that number.
8. John Cook, Braddock District Supervisor for Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, talked and answered questions on a number of topics.
   1. Braddock Road Construction
      1. Three different projects going on at the same time.
         1. GMU improvements, including intersection at Roanoke River Road and dual turn lanes into GMU from eastbound Braddock.
         2. University Mall entrance change
         3. Bypass for eastbound Braddock traffic to enter GMU, westbound traffic to leave GMU. Called the “Campus Drive Project”.
            1. This will start at the softball fields off Braddock Road between GMU and Trinity school, wind its way by the GMU Field House, travel under Route 123, and end at Patriot Circle on GMU campus
            2. Estimates will reduce traffic at the Braddock/123 intersection by 10-30%.
            3. June 2015 estimated completion date. In time for the World Police and Fire Games, the second largest sporting event in the world (only to the summer Olympics). More info at <http://fairfax2015.com/>.
         4. Projects are coordinated by GMU. One coordinator instead of three different managers will improve coordination among the efforts.
      2. A discussion ensued regarding the long standing issue of the NOVA community college’s impact on traffic to the neighborhood. Mr. Cook as asked to provide updates.
         1. Many students still park on Wakefield Chapel Road and in neighborhoods abutting NOVA.
         2. The amount of traffic the school generates makes it difficult for residents to turn left onto Wakefield Chapel Rd from their neighborhoods.
         3. NOVA is a state institution and must adhere to state regulations. There is little to nothing that Fairfax County can do to enact unilateral changes.
         4. As a state institution, NOVA must adhere to budget and other rules that are implemented across all Virginia schools and across all campuses. Trying to enact changes specifically to the Annandale NOVA campus regarding parking fees/rules is not something Richmond is likely to do.
         5. Even if students were forced to purchase a parking sticker, some students would still park on the street as it sometimes can take a while to exit the NOVA parking garage. Students think it less of a hassle to park on the street.
         6. Mr. Cook recommended neighborhoods/civic associations apply to establish parking district areas, which would require a parking sticker to park in those areas. These are given to the residents in that district, and those not displaying the proper sticker could be ticketed. This is really the only mechanism that Fairfax County has to battle the parking issue. Residents will need to petition the county. Program starts June 2013.
         7. NOVA is a commuter school with approximately 13,000 students. It has grown quite a bit since the recession started. There’s really nothing we can do about the traffic, students have to drive there.
            1. VDOT did recommend against a 4-way stop sign at the Wakefield Chapel Rd/Queen Elizabeth intersection, reasoning the traffic would back up on Wakefield to Braddock.
         8. In the fall 2013 NOVA will offer classes that meet only on Friday night and weekends. This may help reduce traffic during peak work week hours.
         9. NOVA is not capping enrollment, but the Annandale campus is nearing the end of its construction/expansion.
         10. NOVA may be adding another campus at some point in the future.
         11. Mr. Cook is establishing an informal advisory group to have ongoing discussion with NOVA leadership on improving communications with the neighboring communities. This advisory group will be modeled after one set up with GMU, which has been very successful.
      3. Several residents pointed out that the buses that pick up residents from the Queen Elizabeth BLVD group home consistently parks way out into QEB and makes it difficult to pass. Since this occurs just after a curve in QEB, the concern is that this is an accident waiting to happen. It was pointed out that the group home employees park in front of the group home, so that the bus driver may not be able to park close to the curb. One resident also complained that the driver honks the horn at 7:00 a.m., waking children.
         1. Mr. Cook asked that residents email or call his office with the name of the bus company and the license plate. Fairfax County will investigate; he thinks this will be a simple matter to address. This is not an isolated incident; they know how to handle this.
      4. A couple residents advised that the intersection of Queen Elizabeth Blvd and Woodland Way is very busy before and after school. Drivers speed, roll through the stop sign, cut the corner when turning onto Woodland from westbound QEB. There are many pedestrians, especially elementary school students.
         1. Mr. Cook responded that VDOT will probably not take any action if this is a problem only twice a day. There are many areas that experience temporary spikes in traffic, so traffic calming measures would most likely not be implemented.
         2. Mr. Cook stated that most speeding is committed by residents living in that neighborhood. He advised residents to take it upon themselves to slow down and to encourage their neighbors to slow down. Civic associations could take efforts to publicize the “slow down” request on their web sites and in their newsletters. Speeding is a pervasive problem and the county cannot post police in all areas.
      5. A resident asked what measures the county takes to enforce zoning rules such as illegal rooming houses, where too many unrelated people share a residence. There are several houses that potentially fit that description in the CW neighborhood; there are a lot of cars there, the residents are transients.
         1. Mr. Cook replied that the county code enforcement does visit these places early and late in the day, when the residents are more likely to be home. If you suspect there is a code violation, report it online to Fairfax County or to Mr. Cook’s office, and they will forward the complaint. You can also report out of state plates that have not been registered in Fairfax County.
         2. Mr. Cook also stated that while the code enforcement does take place, sometime it takes a while for all things to happen, so be patient.
      6. Mr. Cook stated the rebuilding of the foot bridge to the CW pool will go out for bid this month. The construction should start in the fall and be completed around Thanksgiving.
9. Kassandra Smith reported that she is re-energizing the neighborhood watch program (NWP). Last week there were 14 crimes in the greater CW area. She emphasized that crime does happen in our neighborhood, Red Fox Forest has been plagued with thefts lately, we can be proactive in doing what we can to stem crime.
   1. She is looking for volunteers to walk 20-90 minutes per week.
10. Megan McLaughlin, Braddock District member of the Fairfax County School Board, spoke and addressed questions.
    1. She gave a short biographical description of her family.
    2. The school and county boards strive to work together for the betterment of the students.
    3. She discussed the selection process for the incoming superintendent.
    4. Public hearings on the school budget will be held next week, vote on May 23.
    5. Fairfax High School is overcrowded, some of the feeder schools will start going to W.T. Woodson.
    6. A question was asked on how the county performs background checks on school teachers and employees to make sure pedophiles and other sex offenders are not allowed into the school system.
       1. Background checks are performed, finger prints taken, resumes/references checked.
       2. However, if the person has never been caught before, this vetting process will not catch them.
    7. A question was asked about physical school security, in light of the Sandy Hook incident.
       1. Many elementary schools are getting secured entrances. However, these are not foolproof as people can follow others in without getting buzzed in.
       2. It’s hard to find a balance between establishing a safe environment and a welcoming environment that does not feel like a lock down facility.
    8. A question was asked about the Canterbury Woods ES (CWES) fence. It was stated that the fence was erected for the benefit of one student, who no longer attends CWES. There is a concern that the gates are locked with only a couple CWES administrators possessing the key, making a rapid exit from the school in the case of an emergency challenging.
       1. Another resident stated that the fence no longer fully surrounds the school.
       2. Mrs. McLaughlin requested that information on this topic be sent to her so that she can follow up on it.
       3. Mrs. McLaughlin stated the school board works with a retired police officer who performs safety assessments of schools. If there are any safety concerns, let her know, and they can have this person perform an assessment.
    9. A resident reported that they heard that CWES will become a magnet school for the deaf and hard of hearing. This resident expressed concern that with multiple modes of communicating in the hard of hearing community (sign language, cued speech, etc.) there may be an increase in the number of interpreters within the class, potentially causing a distraction to other students.
       1. Mrs. McLaughlin had not heard of this. She stated that sometimes program changes occur as decisions among principals and cluster supervisors. She asked that this information be emailed to her so that she could follow up on it.
11. Meeting adjourned 8:21 p.m.

Submitted by Andy Kokkinis

May 6, 2013.