

# CWCA Annual Meeting Minutes

**A. Date:** June 20, 2024 at 7:00pm

**B. Location:** Kings Park Library (broadcast via Zoom)

**C. Board Members Present:** Dale Johnson, Susan DiMaina, Lisa Warden (current); Louise Chamberlin, Jeff Sinclair (incoming) + residents

**D. Call the Meeting to Order at 7:30pm (Dale Johnson)**

**E. Budget Review and Approval (Lisa Warden):**

**1. Action Items**

**a) Review Budget**

- i. Increases planned: new mowing/mulching company, website maintenance (to cover iOS groups), gift cards for holiday contest, marker maintenance
- ii. Propose to redo house numbers next year – testing for adhesive stickers has been positive, initial cost higher but may cost less in long term (approximately \$8000)
- iii. Holiday party budget \$0 – canceled due to poor attendance in 2023
- iv. Other costs remain stable incl. donations to Braddock Knights, CW Pool, Boy Scouts; and Welcome Committee, Gazette printing costs

b) CWCA dues: collected 57% dues in 2023, but 2024 low at approx. 40%

c) Budget approved without dissent

**F. Guest Speaker - Fairfax County Supervisor James Walkinshaw:**

**1. County Demographics**

- a) Residents of Fairfax County: currently 14% are 65+ years, but by 2035 18% will be in this demographic; more residents are aging in place, senior services are going to become increasingly important.
- b) Noted Senior Wellness Center at Olley Glen.

**2. County Budget**

a) Adopted in May; discussed 3 challenges:

- i. Underfunding of K-12 education: Virginia is \$3.5B short of national average and behind neighboring states. Fairfax County has high quality schools, teachers are paid on national average – because tax payers are making up the gap. Supervisor's office is encouraging state legislation to reduce taxpayer burden – state owes \$500 million to county.
- ii. Changing work landscape: post COVID, businesses are not renewing leases and therefore not generating taxes. A 9% decline is anticipated from commercial office buildings; expect 2% increase on residential but significant gap persists.

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- iii. Competitive job market, including County/Supervisor offices: county must raise budget to compete with other jurisdictions – Supervisor’s Office has eliminated vacant positions (no lay offs), closed satellite offices, taken other budget measures such as reducing color printing. County Executive recommended 4% property tax increase (average \$500/home) but Supervisor Walkinshaw advocated for less; 3% increase ultimately adopted.
  - b) Resident question: Given aging population (reduced property tax income) and difficulty of attracting younger population due to increasing housing costs, what is the County doing to reduce taxpayer burden? Supervisor’s response: Diversifying revenue sources & investing in community - people without children in schools are net tax payers (as opposed to those with children in school who cost \$18k per year for education); increasing hotel, cigarette, meal taxes provide relief to home owners. Internal auditors on staff work to ID inefficiencies, evaluate effectiveness of current programs. However County size is undeniably challenging; currently tax payers are funding 70% of the budget.
3. **Lake Accotink**
- a) Reviewed history: originally created for source of drinking water; dredged to 10’ in 2008 but quickly filled in – Hurricane Sandy alone deposited 2’. Ongoing challenge. Current dredging was originally proposed \$30.5 million but is actually \$95 million to dredge + \$395 million to maintain. Task force was assembled; current consideration is dredging smaller area, allow larger area of Lake to fill in/deposit spoils. County is currently installing sediment gauges for more exact measurement of sediment and completing feasibility study.
4. **Braddock Road Widening**
- a) Task force determined the impact on neighborhoods is too great, and will only attract more traffic. Current proposal includes shared-use paths along corridor. Supervisor’s Office is working with VDOT to refine design, minimize impact on trees, reallocate funding for pedestrian bridges – construction likely to start 2027.
5. **Long Branch Stream**
- a) Watershed is impaired; insufficient pollution control in past 50-100 years. County restoration project to include Burke Station Rd and beltway; aims to restore stream to facsimile of natural state (relatively flat and shallow, flood into floodplain). Installing large boulders/logs to redirect water and reduce sedimentation. Process will take decades and is loud/disruptive, but ultimately important and restores natural state of stream. County will communicate to residents in advance of planned construction, most likely late 2025/early 2026.

### G. Board Business (President - Dale Johnson):

1. **CWCA Board Membership & Block Captains**

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- a) Old members of the Board: Dale, Susan, Troy vacating positions
- b) New members voted in:
  - i. Jeff Sinclair –President or Member at Large (role to be clarified)
  - ii. Louise Chamberlin – Secretary
- c) Block Captains update (Susan): new volunteers needed for Wakefield Chapel, Troy's position
- 2. **Neighborhood Communications**
  - a) Challenging due to community size and diverse demographics
  - b) Gazette Newsletter (approx.. 600 printed yearly), Facebook page, Google Groups listserv, street/sandwich signs
- 3. **Aging in Place (Coordinator: Jim)**
  - a) Pool accessibility: advocating for Pool Board to offer lower rates to seniors, negotiations have not yet been successful
  - b) County Services available to seniors (information available from Susan)
- 4. **Neighborhood Inclusion**
  - a) "Be a Good Neighbor" article in Gazette raised awareness of poor treatment experienced by some residents of color
- 5. **CWCA Budget Issues**
  - a) Event insurance: added expense, no longer covered by Pool or CWES for events e.g. Fall Festival
  - b) Boy Scout Troop Charters (Phillip Sandino): Troops must be chartered by an organization. No burden of providing location or financial backing by CWCA. Scout influence in community has been positive.
  - c) Increased cost of landscaping in common areas, including Wakefield, Braddock signs and Mary Read Memorial
- 6. **Traffic**
  - a) Stonehaven now uses County trash services; reduced truck traffic through CW
- 7. **Resident Question: Power Lines**
  - a) Homes are being contacted by Dominion re: burying power lines; Board confirmed the project targets only specific areas with poor reliability.

### **H. Adjourn Meeting:**

- 1. **Meeting Adjourned at:**
  - a) 8:22pm
- 2. **Next Meeting scheduled for:**
  - a) TBD