

# McLean Citizens Association Board of Directors Meeting Final Minutes, February, 2007

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers (6)

Tom Brock	President	Present
Rob Jackson	First Vice President	Present
Jim Turner	Second Vice President	Absent (excused)
William Denk	Treasurer	Present
Mark Zetts	Corresponding Secretary	Absent (excused)
Desmond B. O'Rourke	Recording Secretary	Present

## DIRECTORS REPRESENTING NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS (19)

John Adams	Georgetown Pike & Potomac River Assoc.	Present
Ted Alexander	Westberry HOA	Present
Brian Blood	Evermay Community Association	Present
Donald Borcharding	Brookhaven/Forest Villa Association	Present
Germaine Broussard	McLean Commons	Present
Steve DelBianco	Franklin Area Citizens Association; FCFCA	Present
Darren Ewing	Pimmit Hills Citizens Association	Present
Louis Freeman	McLean House North Council	Present
Lynn Bays Fuechsel	McLean County Estates	Present
Jane Greenstein	Chesterford Community Association	Present
Michelle Meehan	Greenway Heights Civic Association	Present
Robert (Bob) Philipp	Shouse Village Community Association	Present
James A. Robertson	Evans Mill Pond Owners Association	Present
Ed Saperstein	Glen Haven Farms	Present
John Schaefer	McLean Broyhill Estates	Present
Bill Stephens	Chesterbrook Woods Citizens Association	Present
Susan Turner	Summerwood	Present
Paul Wieland	McLean Hamlet Citizens Association	Present
Stephanie Weisbroth	West McLean Citizens Association	Present

## AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS (14)

Robin Bates	Present
Mike Clancy	Present
Chris Cole	Present
Frank Crandall	Present
Dan DuVal	Present
Donald Finberg	Present
Lawrence Glick	Absent
Stephen Keller	Present
Margaret Malone	Present
Chris Monek	Present
Dale Murad	Present
Bob Nagle	Absent (Excused)
Merrily Pierce	Absent (Excused)
Wade Smith	Present

Guests whose presence was recorded by signing in or being introduced:

Dan Alcorn	MCA Transportation Committee
Trish Butler	MCF Trustee
Bill Byrnes	MCA Transportation Committee

John Foust  
Caroline Pickens  
Monty Taloe  
Aranya Tomseth

MCA/MPC  
MCF Trustee  
The Times  
The McLean Connection

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Brock called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. at McLean Community Center, Community Hall (sections B & C).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Brock announced that the Nominating Committee for Officers will be headed by Adrienne Whyte assisted by Jim Turner, Jim Robertson, Sue Berke King and Whit Field.

President Brock asked directors to inform their HOAs of the six Tysons Corner Public Workshops to be held March 19-21. All individuals planning to attend should register by March 16 to be guaranteed a place. To register go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner), or call 703-324-1344.

He reported that Jan Auerbach contacted him about the community meeting to take place March 14.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the MCA Board of Directors' meeting of January 3 were approved as amended.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer deposited \$2115 in dues collected on February 3 and a January 14 Lettercom check for \$587.92 cleared. About \$12,000 remains in checking account and over \$15,000 remains in CDs.

The Treasurer's budget for 2007 was submitted for the Board's consideration. See next heading.

### **REPORT OF PRESIDENT / EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **MCLEAN CITIZENS FOUNDATION**

President Brock said that the status of the McLean Citizens Foundation was reviewed at the MCA's General Membership Meeting, October 26, 2006. MCF has decided to conduct outreach aimed at making it better known to the community and fundraising. President Brock introduced MCF trustees Trish Butler and Caroline Pickens and invited them to speak [summary courtesy of Caroline Pickens]

"The McLean Citizens Association created the Foundation 26 years ago for the purpose of funding charitable and educational projects by non-profit organizations in McLean. For many years it was a small community foundation, primarily existing on donations from the same core group of McLean residents and funding relatively small grants. The Foundation basically waited for organizations to come to it with requests for funding.

The Foundation, however, has grown so that it now has assets of more than \$1, which is no Ford Foundation but is a substantial amount. In the past few years we have funded some substantial requests, including \$50,000 for the Fun and Fitness part of Clemyjontri Park and \$50,000 for a new rescue vehicle for our Volunteer Fire Department.

Our articles of incorporation and bylaws permit the Foundation to initiate projects as well as fund projects that come to them, so part of our strategic process discussions centered on how we could be more pro-active with our grants instead of just reactive. We began this present grant cycle by contacting groups in McLean from whom we had never received a grant request or had not received a request in years. The result was a substantial increase in grant proposals for this cycle (10). We also intend to reach out to the business community to see if we can develop some partnerships for funding of other projects, and we plan to do a community survey to let the citizens tell us what they see as the needs and desires of the community for projects that contribute to the quality of life in McLean.”

Copies of the MCF's Strategic Planning Summary, January 2007-2010, were made available at the meeting. A community-wide survey will be conducted electronically in zip codes 22101 and 22102 to identify needs, preferences and priorities. Grants will be confined to non-profit organizations. There will be two grant cycles each year. President Brock thanked the speakers for attending the meeting.

### **MCA BUDGET**

In the absence of Treasurer Bill Denk, President Brock announced that the Proposed MCA Budget for 2007 is as follows:

Mailings	\$5,000
Website services	\$1,000
Banquet	\$1,800
Miscellaneous (Xeroxing, Special Issues)	\$2,000
Altruistic/Community support	<u>\$3,500</u>
Total	\$13,300

He asked the MCA Board to approve the MCA 2007 Budget as presented and it was so approved.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

President Brock then asked the MCA Board to approve the slate of the 2007 nominating committee. The Board approved Adrienne Whyte (chair), Jim Turner, Jim Robertson, Sue Berke King and Whit Field as the nominating committee for MCA officers to serve in 2007-2008.

Corresponding Secretary Mark Zetts reported that MCA and MCF nomination forms will be mailed to the membership in the coming days together with Committee Reports October 2006-January 2007.

Applications for the MCA Board of Directors must be postmarked no later than March 15.

### **TYSONS LAND USE TASK FORCE**

President Brock announced that the Tysons Land Use Task Force, headed by Clark Tyler, which met January 16, will hold two public meetings in February and March (in addition to the six public workshops mentioned above) to help it finish a report for early 2008. The meetings are at Westbriar Elementary School - Cafeteria, 1741 Pine Valley Dr, Vienna, Tuesday, February 27, 7-10 p.m., and at Holland & Knight LLP - Suite 700, 1600 Tysons Boulevard, McLean, Friday, March 2, at noon.

President Brock urged the directors of HOAs to look at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysons](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysons) corner, the Task Force website. HOAs should determine whether their representatives should speak at one of these meetings. Input will exert more influence addressed to the Task Force now than it would later before the Planning Commission or the Board of Supervisors. The Task Force will also hold three daytime and three evening Tysons Corner Public Workshops, March 19-21 (see announcements).

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

No resolution. Chris Monek said that the Budget & Taxation committee will meet with the Education & Youth committee on February 20 in order to issue a joint resolution in March.

### **EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

#### **McLean Citizens Association Education and Youth Committee Resolution on a McLean Room at Dolley Madison Library**

**Whereas** the Dolley Madison Branch of the Fairfax County Public Library System is about to undergo extensive renovations with project bidding expected in the spring of 2007 and construction beginning in the summer, and

**Whereas** longtime McLean organizations such as the MCA and McLean Citizens Foundation (MCF) have for years sought space at the McLean Community Center (MCC) or the library to archive their documents for safekeeping as well as make them available for reference, and to date have been able to acquire only closet space at the MCC, and

**Whereas** it was generally recognized that the purpose of a "McLean Room" was to provide safe storage and cataloguing of historic documents not only from the MCA and MCF, and other organizations, but from McLean families who wanted to donate their papers and photographs, as well as for the display of historic artifacts, and to provide research space as well, and

**Whereas** the current architectural plans for the renovated library omit a provision for the previously agreed to "McLean Room," and

**Therefore** be it resolved, that officials from the County's Public Library System together with staff from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services meet with members of the McLean Community to ensure that the current design plans for the renovated building provide a "McLean Room."

President Brock invited Jan Auerbach to describe the background to the Resolution. She pointed out that a "McLean Room", a need long felt by those seeking to preserve neighborhood association and other historic documents of interest to area residents, had been omitted from the draft plans for an extension to Dolley Madison Library. The Resolution under consideration addressed this omission.

The Resolution was passed as amended.

Twelve HOAs have signed up to provide a brief history of their association by the April 1 deadline.

### **PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

President stated that the Resolution on Minimum Lot Widths passed at the January meeting needed to be formally ratified by the Board. So moved and passed.

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No resolution. Co-Chairman Bill Byrnes reported on movement in the FTA regarding Phase I of the Dulles Metro line project.

## ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

### **McLEAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

#### **Resolution Regarding Aircraft Noise**

**Whereas** aircraft noise over parts of McLean has become an increasingly serious problem resulting low flying airplanes departing from and arriving at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA); and

**Whereas** on April 27, 2005 the MCA approved a "Resolution Regarding the Abatement of Airplane Noise Over the McLean/Langley Area" that, among other things, requested Congressman Frank Wolf's assistance; and

**Whereas** recent noise monitoring data released by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) showed that the situation in the Langley Forest area of McLean (where a noise monitoring station is located) has continued to deteriorate over the past year; and

**Whereas** the MCA Environment, Parks and Recreation (EP&R) Committee sent a letter dated October 19, 2006 to Congressman Wolf requesting his assistance in obtaining complete and definitive information on flight paths currently followed by aircraft departing from and arriving at DCA: and

**Whereas** Congressman Wolf contacted MWAA on our behalf and subsequently forwarded, with his letter of November 27, 2006 to the EP&R Committee, tables with monthly noise data and detailed printouts of flight tracks to and from DCA provided by MWAA; and

**Whereas** the noise data flight track printouts confirmed the validity of the EP&R Committee's concern about the levels of noise over our community caused by airplanes departing from and arriving at DCA, and that both pilots and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) controllers have routinely and continuously deviated from established noise abatement procedures; now therefore

**Be it resolved** that the McLean Citizens Association should send the attached letter and its enclosures that provide details of the noise problem to Congressman Wolf and asks that he write to the FAA Administrator on MCA's behalf.

Distribution:

Supervisor Joan DuBois, Dranesville District  
Supervisor Penelope Gross, Chair, Board of Supervisors Environment Committee  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors  
Fairfax County Executive  
Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council  
Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County Environmental Coordinator  
Mr. Noel Kaplan, Fairfax County DPZ  
Ms. Barbara Favola, Arlington County Board  
Mr. Chris Grootaert

The Resolution was passed as amended.

Letter from McLean Citizens Association to Congressman Wolf enclosed with the above resolution:

## McLEAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 273  
McLean, Virginia 22101

February 7, 2007  
*Postal Service*

*Sent via E-Mail and U.S.*

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf  
241 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wolf:

Thank you for your letter of November 27, 2006. We greatly appreciate that you contacted the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) on our behalf. The tables with monthly noise data and the printouts of the flight tracks to and from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) provided by MWAA were very useful.

We have carefully studied these materials and devoted a meeting of our Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee to them, and we would like to share our findings with you. We also request that you write to the FAA Administrator on our behalf and have enclosed a draft letter for your convenience and consideration.

The noise tables confirm the validity of our concern about the levels of noise over our community caused by airplanes departing from and arriving at DCA. In the table enclosed herewith we have aggregated MWAA's data for the noise monitoring stations north of DCA into seasonal and annual figures. The most striking finding is that noise levels in the Langley Forest area of McLean have continued to increase over the past year at a rate ***higher than anywhere else*** north of the airport. This area has now seen the largest increase in noise levels since the year 2000, experiencing an increase in Day Night Average Noise Level (DNL) of 3.6 dB, which corresponds to a more than doubling of average noise levels.

In contrast, all Maryland noise monitoring stations showed significant decreases in noise, both in the past year and since 2000. This suggests that changes in flight paths, rather than overall increases in traffic volume as asserted by FAA, are to blame for the increase in noise over McLean.

In fact, the printouts of the flight tracks indicate that noncompliance with noise abatement procedures is the prime explanatory factor for this increase in noise. Mr. Bennett's letter to you makes reference to these procedures, which call for aircraft, in the case of takeoff to the north, to follow the Potomac River until abeam Georgetown Reservoir and then continue over the river visually or via the DCA VOR 328 Radial until reaching the 10-mile point, i.e., until the American Legion Bridge. The printouts show that the vast majority of aircraft do not comply with these procedures. Instead, most aircraft turn ***before*** reaching the American Legion Bridge and routinely fly over densely populated areas on the Virginia side of the river. The vast majority of approaches to DCA for landings from the north occur likewise on the Virginia side of the river.

This situation represents a major departure from the practice which existed prior to the events of 9/11/2001, when compliance with noise abatement procedures was the norm rather than the exception. It appears also that the practice of full-power, straight-line departure climb-outs which was mandated as a temporary measure after 9/11 has in fact become permanent, even though this requirement was lifted by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation in April 2002.

While the provided printouts show insufficient detail to distinguish and count individual tracks, it is nonetheless clear that noncompliance with noise abatement procedures is pervasive and the norm. For example, the tracks for 23 October show that 80-90 percent of departing flights were not over the Potomac

River once they crossed the Chain Bridge. Instead, they flew over a corridor approximately one mile wide between the river and Route 123/Georgetown Pike. Some aircraft were already west of the George Washington Parkway at a distance of five miles from DCA. This is not in accordance with the noise abatement procedures described in the fifth paragraph of this letter.

In the case of landings from the north, the tracks provided for 4 October show that the majority of aircraft arriving from the northeast approach inside the Beltway. For arrivals from other directions, the main problem is a systematic shortcut from the specified noise abatement routing over McLean's Langley Forest. More than half of all arrival tracks pass over the section of McLean between the George Washington Parkway and Georgetown Pike. Again, this flight path is not in accordance with noise abatement procedures.

MWAA also provided separate printouts for daytime and nighttime (10 p.m. until 7 a.m.) operations. Our earlier observations had indicated that compliance with noise abatement procedures is worse at night, and the printouts confirm this in the case of takeoffs. The printout for the departures from 10 p.m. on 22 October until 7 a.m. on 23 October shows that not a single aircraft continued to fly over the river past Chain Bridge – ***this represents a noncompliance rate of 100 percent!*** In the case of landings, the printouts show no substantial difference in procedures between days and nights, i.e., about a 50 percent noncompliance rate. This ongoing situation disproves convincingly the validity of the FAA's argument that deviations from the noise abatement procedures are necessitated by operational considerations due to density of traffic. If this argument were valid, it would mean better, not worse, compliance at night when traffic is light. In fact, when traffic is light, the same shortcuts are used, suggesting that factors other than operational necessity motivate them (such as pilot and controller convenience and/or indifference to noise impact).

We recognize that noise abatement procedures are recommended -- not required procedures. However, we find it unacceptable that the procedures are not followed in the vast majority of cases.

The Part 150 noise compatibility study for DCA that was completed in 2005 was meant to provide relief to the noise situation, but the study has still not been approved by the FAA. Mr. Bennett's letter indicated that a decision should have been forthcoming by the end of 2006. Regrettably, this benchmark has come and gone without action by the FAA.

Even if the Part 150 study were approved by the FAA today, normally it would take years before the recommendations are implemented and relief from the noise situation is realized by the residents of McLean and other communities north of DCA. We would therefore ask you to write to the Administrator of the FAA, requesting both immediate relief in the form of improved compliance with the existing noise abatement procedures and also long-term relief through the early approval and implementation of the Part 150 recommendations. For your convenience, we have attached a draft letter to that effect for your consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your support.

Sincerely,

Tom Brock, President  
McLean Citizens Association

## **REPRESENTATIVES/DELEGATES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **MCLEAN PLANNING COMMITTEE**

John Foust gave a brief description of the current state of affairs.

### **MCLEAN REVITALIZATION CORPORATION**

The MRC has signed an agreement with the County regarding the Teen Center and bus shelters.

Dan Duval continues as MRC President, assisted by VP Lane Gabeler, Treasurer Ted Gray and Secretary Gus Anderson.

**FAIRFAX COUNTY FEDERATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS**

No report.

**MCLEAN CITIZENS FOUNDATION**

See report of President/Executive Committee above.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Susan Turner presented a Draft Resolution Requesting Reconsideration of the Plan for Phase I of the Dulles Metro Line. She was doing so before the Board as a whole because she said her views on the matter met with opposition from the Transportation Committee and would not be advanced through it. After describing the context of her Resolution's 23 Whereas clauses, she requested the MCA Board to support it.

Following discussion, a vote to table the motion was withdrawn and a vote to refer the matter to the Transportation Committee was defeated 16-12. It was moved that the Board act as a committee at the March Board meeting to evaluate the Resolution as a whole. The vote on this motion was 22 in favor and 5 opposed.

President Brock then suggested that he appoint a separate committee pursuant to Section 6.3 of the Bylaws to weigh the accuracy of the resolution's content, and separate what was justifiable in it from what was not. A motion to have President Brock make this determination passed with one opposed.

In further new business, it was reported that the status of the former Giant Gourmet is unchanged. McLean Post Office will no longer consider moving from its current location to the Giant Gourmet.

Metrobus currently has a deficit of \$116 million and transit authority managers propose eliminating ten underperforming bus routes, nine in Virginia and one in the District, to save \$5.4 million a year.

The routes affected in the McLean/Tysons Corner area are Pimmit Hills (3T), McLean Hamlet-East Falls Church (24T), East Falls Church-West Falls Church (26A, E), and the West Falls Church metro loop (26W). This is a matter of concern because of the importance of these bus routes to local metro rail passengers, among others. A public hearing will be held in the matter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Brock adjourned the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Desmond B. O'Rourke, Recording Secretary