

McLean Citizens Association Board of Directors' Meeting Final Minutes, March 2, 2011

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS (6)

Rob Jackson	President.....	Present
Sally Horn	First Vice President.....	Present
Darren Ewing	Second Vice President.....	Present
William Denk	Treasurer.....	Absent (excused)
Kerry Stackpole	Corresponding Secretary.....	Absent (excused)
Nicki Watts	Recording Secretary.....	Present

DIRECTORS REPRESENTING NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS (20)

John Adams	Georgetown Pike & Potomac River Assoc.	Present
Ted Alexander	Westberry HOA	Present
Donald Borcharding	Brookhaven/Forest Villa Association	Absent (excused)
Chris Cole	Marlborough-Nantucket	Present
Steve DelBianco	Franklin Area	Present
Louis (Bud) Freeman	McLean House North Council	Present
Leslie Gelman	Lemon Road.....	Present
Jane Greenstein	Chesterford HOA.....	Present
Gregg Hagedorn	Greenway Heights Civic Association.....	Present
Jack McMahan	Hallcrest Heights.....	Present
John Mealey III	McLean Hamlet	Absent (excused)
George Parkins	Shouse Village Community Association	Absent
James A. Robertson	Evans Mill Pond Owners Association.....	Absent (excused)
Suzanne Samuels (Seigel)	Langley Oaks.....	Absent
Ed Saperstein	Glen Haven Farms	Present
John Schaefer	McLean Broyhill Estates	Present
Gary Soverow	Lynwood HOA	Present
Jim Turner	McLean Hunt HOA	Present
Robert Wrede	Evermay Community Association.....	Absent (excused)
David Wuehrmann	Ellison Heights – Mt Daniel.....	Present

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS (14)

Roshan Badii	Present
Tom Brock	Absent
Frank Crandall	Present
Bill Crosby	Present
Don Finberg	Absent
Joe Gibson	Present
Usha Jairam	Absent
Elizabeth Morton	Present
Dale Murad	Present
James Phelps	Present
Ted Smith	Present
Kathryn Woods	Present
Mark Zetts	Present
Vacancy	

Guests whose attendance was recorded by recognition or signing in:

Bobbi Bowman.....The McLean Ear
Shaista Keating
Chip Comstock
Barbara Comstock

CALL TO ORDER

President Jackson called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM at McLean Community Center's Community Hall (sections B & C).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The MCA Board meeting minutes for February 2, 2011 were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report

REPORT OF PRESIDENT / EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pres Jackson requested approval of Elizabeth Morton to the MRC in place of Farrokh Alemi, and approval of Roshan Carter as an alternate on the MRC to fill a vacancy. Both were approved unanimously. Joe Gibson volunteered to chair the Nominations Committee. Still need volunteers for McLean Day. Board approved official endorsement of Taxpayers' Guide.

VP Sally Horn thanked everyone who volunteered to sign the MCA tax letter on Tysons. She gave special recognition to Mark Zetts for all his work on the letter. The Reston Citizens Association endorsed the letter 75-25.

STANDING COMMITTEES

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No resolution.

Committee received a HOT lanes construction update.

EDUCATION & YOUTH COMMITTEE

Resolution on School Year Starting Date
Resolution on Full-Day Kindergarten in McLean

Local school boards are best positioned to make the decision on when to start and end the school year as opposed to the state. There are several reasons for making this change including 1) a mid-June end date does not match up with test finals; 2) better alignment of the calendar with dual-enrolled students, e.g. college placement students; 3) more flexibility if there are a large number of school closings due to weather, etc. MCA has supported this action in the past, most recently in 2005.

A Jan 2011 survey with over 23,000 respondents favored local control including 64% parents and 71% employees. Per Delegate Comstock, strong support last year but didn't pass. With the growing sentiment supporting change, she encourages the resolution. The resolution was approved with Leslie Gelman and Joe Gibson abstaining.

**McLean Citizens Association Resolution on
Starting Date of School Year
March 2, 2011**

WHEREAS local school boards, by their regular meetings and geographic situation, are expedient methods for gathering community input, and are best positioned to make decisions on school calendars that meet the needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS in Virginia, local school boards must set the school calendar so that the first day students are required to attend school is after Labor Day, and the State Board of Education may waive this requirement only after showing good cause; and

WHEREAS an earlier starting date, before Labor Day, could provide students with more instructional time before the Virginia SOL tests and would better align the school calendar with various U.S. wide standardized testing periods, such as AP and IB exams; and

WHEREAS an earlier starting date would better align the calendar with local universities, allowing better access for students who participate in dual enrollment courses; and

WHEREAS an earlier starting date would provide greater flexibility in the event of a large number of school closings due to inclement weather; and

WHEREAS in a survey held in January of 2011, where over 20,000 people responded, a sizable majority of FCPS parents and employees supported opening the schools one week before Labor Day; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the McLean Citizens Association that:

We urge Virginia legislators to amend Virginia law to grant local school boards the authority to determine the starting date of the school year.

Distribute to:

Governor Bob McDonnell
Delegate Barbara Comstock
Senator Janet Howell

Fairfax County School Board

Elizabeth Bradsher
Brad Center
Sandy Evans
Stu Gibson
Martina Hone
Ilryong Moon
James Raney
Patricia Reed
Kathy Smith
Dan Storck
Janie Strauss
Judith (Tessie) Wilson
Keegan Cotton

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent

Jack Dale

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Sharon Bulova
John Cook
John Foust
Michael Frey

Penelope (Penny) Gross
Pat Herrity
Cathy Hudgins
Gerry Hyland
Jeff McKay
Linda Smyth

Out of eight elementary schools in the McLean area, only one (Lemon Road) has a full-day kindergarten. There are 150 elementary schools without full-day sessions – 37 of them are in Fairfax County. The cost to implement in those 37 schools is about \$8 million. The final year to implement in all schools is 2014. Friendly amendments were accepted and vote was unanimous to approve.

**McLean Citizens Association
Resolution on Full-Day Kindergarten
March 2, 2011**

WHEREAS under a 3-year phase-in plan adopted before FY 2008 for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), all elementary schools were to have full-day kindergarten by FY 2010; and

WHEREAS in FCPS currently about 100 elementary schools have full-day kindergarten, but 37 elementary schools still have half-day kindergarten; and

WHEREAS of the eight (8) elementary schools in our area, only one (1) has full-day kindergarten; and

WHEREAS the recession was likely a factor for FCPS to not fully implement its plan to have full-day kindergarten in all elementary schools by FY 2010, even so such a long delay in fully implementing full-day kindergarten can foster a sense of unfairness in the areas served by these 37 schools that still have half-day kindergarten; and

WHEREAS on February 3, 2011 the FCPS School Board adopted a motion to implement full-day kindergarten in all its elementary schools beginning in FY 2012, and completing implementation no later than FY 2014, and directing the Superintendent to identify the funding source for the implementation plan in FY 2012 (without increasing the county transfer request), and for the Superintendent to present the plan to the School Board no later than May 2, 2011; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the McLean Citizens Association that:

1. We commend the School Board for its February 3rd motion on fully implementing full-day kindergarten in all our elementary schools.
2. We urge that the implementation of full-day kindergarten be fully completed in FY 2012.
3. To the extent there is a phase-in in determining which schools go first, we urge FCPS to take into account the dearth of elementary schools in our area that currently have full-day kindergarten.

Distribute to:

Fairfax County School Board

Elizabeth Bradsher
Brad Center
Sandy Evans
Stu Gibson
Martina Hone
Ilryong Moon
James Raney
Patricia Reed
Kathy Smith
Dan Storck
Janie Strauss
Judith (Tessie) Wilson
Keegan Cotton

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent

Jack Dale

Fairfax County Public Schools Assistant Superintendent Instructional Services

Peter Noonan

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Sharon Bulova
John Cook
John Foust
Michael Frey
Penelope (Penny) Gross
Pat Herrity
Cathy Hudgins
Gerry Hyland
Jeff McKay
Linda Smyth

BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE

No resolution.

The MCA-approved letter was sent to Supervisor Foust criticizing the Board of Supervisors for not providing enough information to citizens to make a decision on the Covanta waste-to-energy plant purchase. It recommended continuing with the current arrangement to allow time to make an informed decision. A decision is expected April 4th.

Delegate Comstock stated that the county is doing a study on the Falls Church water bill overpayment issue now that the court case has concluded. She solicited specific examples of overbilling and plumbing repairs done on the assumption that there was a leak.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Resolution on MWAA Train Control Room at Fisher Avenue

An MWAA amendment will move the control room 100 feet further east which will push it into the neighborhood even more and cause a great loss of trees. It is a change from the location approved in 2007. The resolution was approved unanimously.

**McLean Citizens Association Resolution
Silver Line TCR/Communications Room Facility
Fisher Avenue
2232 D11-03
March 2, 2011**

Whereas the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) received 2232 Review approval in 2007 to build a Train Control Room (TCR) and a Communications Room at the existing Orange Line Traction Power Substation site located on Fisher Avenue; and,

Whereas MWAA is seeking to modify the approved plan to utilize a 52.5' x 10.5' modular building 12' high to house the TCR and communications equipment; and,

Whereas MWAA further proposes to relocate the facility 100 feet to the east to a parcel owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia between Fisher Avenue and I-66; and,

Whereas the modular building would be surrounded by a walled compound 15' high, 21' deep and 62' long; and,

Whereas the compound would be set back 25' from Fisher Avenue; and,

Whereas the Brilyn Park community opposes the relocation of the modular building as it would encroach on the neighborhood and, with a setback of only 25', be out of character with the neighborhood; now.

Therefore, be it resolved that the McLean Citizens Association supports the use of a modular building to house the TCR and Communications Room and opposes the relocation to the proposed alternate site; and,

Be it further resolved that the McLean Citizens Association strongly recommends that MWAA co-locate the TCR facility adjacent to the existing TPSS as approved by Fairfax County in the original 2232 Review; and,

Be it further resolved that the McLean Citizens Association strongly urges MWAA to:

1. Preserve existing vegetation to the greatest extent possible and,
2. Improve the appearance of the overall facility, especially the existing TPSS, in keeping with the character of the neighborhood.

Copies to:

John Foust, Dranesville Supervisor
Jay Donahue, Dranesville Planning Commissioner
Ben Wiles, Staff
Fairfax County Planning Commission
James Van Zee, MWAA
Marcia McAllister, MWAA
Susan Barth, Brilyn Park

ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

No resolution.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

No resolution.

TYSONS CORNER LIAISON COMMITTEE

No resolution.

Joe Cannon spoke to the committee on the Ballston experience with expansion. The Tysons landowners and private land owners are proposing there be no community involvement with their planning, preferring that we stay quietly in the background. Pat Herry wants the county to relook at the density allowed with an eye to increasing it. He may want to "blow up" the whole comprehensive plan that was approved because it passes too much expense to the landowners. Supervisor Foust is trying to set up a meeting with the landowners to discuss further. Other supervisors think the county should pay more but would not fund Tysons expansion this year.

MCLEAN PLANNING COMMITTEE

The committee met with applicants for 6862 Elm St (developer Stu Mendelsohn) several times. The committee wants mixed use office development rather than the townhouses being proposed or at least C4 zoning.

MCLEAN REVITALIZATION CORPORATION

MRC is also watching the 6862 Elm St case. MRC has authorized and signed a consultant to help with the process of undergrounding and ensuring cost efficiency. The PNC Bank property is the last to sign up.

FAIRFAX COUNTY FEDERATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS

At the Feb meeting a land use presentation was given by John Goudi, planner for the Reston master plan.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Pres Jackson adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m. The next MCA Board meeting will be held April 6, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicki Watts,
Recording Secretary