

Ravensworth Farm Civic Association General Membership Meeting
Final Minutes
January 28, 2010 – 7:30pm

Introduction

The January general membership meeting of the association was held at Ravensworth Elementary School. Steve Price called the meeting to order. The October 29, 2009 general membership minutes were approved.

Mary Keeser said a few words about Ty Simpson, a long-time active Ravensworth Farm resident who recently passed away. It was mentioned that Bill Sodamon also passed away recently. M. Keeser thanked people, such as Ty and Bill, who over the years made this the great community it is today.

Supervisor Cook

Ann Sharp, Senior Staff Assistant for Constituent Services from Supervisor John Cook's office, addressed the general membership regarding snow removal of our neighborhood roads. She reported that they are working to try and determine the reason behind the obvious disparity in snow removal from one neighborhood to the next in the county. She also encouraged our civic association to attend the various programs and meetings put on by Supervisor Cook's office in an effort to improve and engage the community. To learn more about these programs, contact Supervisory Cook's office at 703-425-9300.

Budget

R. Tun reviewed the annual operational budget. He reported the projected budget at 13K. To date, \$7,400 has been collected. The rest of the revenue is dependent on the accrual of civic association dues. If 13K is not collected, the budget will need to be modified accordingly.

Committee Updates

The Hayride is scheduled for Sunday, February 7, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in front of the Church on Inverchapel Road.

Ravensworth Farm 50th Celebration will take place on March 20th from 5:00 to 9:00 pm at Ravensworth Elementary School cafeteria and gymnasium. It is a potluck event. There will be many activities for all age groups. Many officials from the community are invited to attend the event. Mary Lipsey requested the membership to send her community pictures. She would like to display community pictures during the event.

Annandale Boy Scouts requested permission to sell flags in our neighborhood to be placed in front of homes during US holidays, such as Memorial Day, 4th July. ***S. Price will follow-up on this request.***

S. Price requested that individuals willing to help and be block captains to please contact him. We are still missing block captains for sections of the neighborhood.

Neighborhood Watch

Tom Mathis provided an update on the neighborhood watch program (NW). He is looking for volunteers to enable NW to be established in our community and make it a sustainable program for years to come. NW will have some budget impact. By the May general membership meeting, the cost of the NW will be presented and the membership will approve the proposed cost or not.

T. Mathis presented his draft concept for NW. He proposes concentrating on the entry points into the neighborhood. This being the three road entrances – Inverchapel, Queensberry, and Hemming – as well as the pedestrian entrances from Lake Accotink Park. About 25 volunteers would be the desirable number to start NW with the hope of each volunteer patrolling the neighborhood at least 2 hours per month. T. Mathis plans to have incentives and gatherings with those who volunteer in an effort to keep the program enjoyable and get to know our neighbors.

A long discussion on NW pursued.

Ravensworth Shopping Center

Don Magelvein, second-generation owner of Ravensworth Shopping Center, provided a brief overview of his plans for the shopping center for the future and answered many questions from the general membership. He reported that he does have long-range plans for renovating the shopping center. Safeway has another 5 years on their lease. However, he would like to eventually update this grocery store with maybe a Fresh Market or Whole Foods. If this were to happen, that would be when he would renovate the center, about 2015. Until this time, Safeway will not likely renovate their store with only 5 years remaining on the lease.

The shopping center does have re-footprint capability. He may demo some or all. He may redo the section of the center that faces Braddock Road. The parking lot would not change. He has no plans for building condominiums on the site. He is considering installing security cameras to deter crime. He acknowledges some issues with crime in recent months.

In terms of acquiring a national brand shop, such as Starbucks or Chiptole, he told the membership that he has tried, with no success, to convince Starbucks to open a store at the center. At this point, there are no other options for a coffee shop. He would not want to hurt his current clients, such as the Swiss Bakery. He added that it is hard to attract national brand stores due to the demographics of the area. The mix of the stores is important to him to ensure success.

There are plans for the old flower shop. The Post Office's lease ends in 2012. At this time the Post Office may down size due to budget shortfalls. The Post Office may move

to the flower shop's old location and another new business may take over the Post Office's spot.

The hair salon will re-open in 60 days. The Swiss Bakery will expand to include a kitchen and a chef from Switzerland, serving a lunch menu. Some businesses are hurting. There may be some shuffling around. A bead/yarn shop may be a possibility.

He is opposed to allowing commuters to park in the parking lot, because he wants to limit it to customers only. If you started to allow some commuters in, it would just open the floodgates and a host of new problems.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.