

Ravensworth Farm Civic Association General Membership Meeting
Final Minutes
October 23, 2008 – 7:30pm

Introduction

The October general membership meeting of the association was held at Ravensworth Elementary School. Brent Reynolds called the meeting to order. Steve Best made the motion to amend the agenda to include “Process for Spending” before New Business. Jonathan Gibson also made a motion to amend the agenda. Under New Business, J. Gibson proposed “clarification of eligibility for Board members of the RFCA as defined by the Association’s by-laws”. Both motions were seconded and approved, and the agenda, as amended, was approved.

Report of Treasurer

Richmon Tun gave the Treasurer’s Report. He reported that currently \$56,000 exists in the RFCA reserve, which earns interest.

Report of President

B. Reynolds welcomed the Membership and encouraged everyone to continue to attend general membership meetings and be active in the community. He reviewed the projects funded by the Civic Association to date for the year and ideas for possible future funding. He reported that the Ravensworth Shopping Center is continuing to try and improve the quality of the Shopping Center. Safeway’s contract will soon be up for renewal. *If people are unhappy with the store, B. Reynolds encouraged everyone to contact Safeway’s headquarters and express what they want in our neighborhood grocery store.*

Reports of Committees:

Each of the Committee Chairs provided an update to the group.

Membership and Communications

Julia Johnson provided an update on block captains, who collect Civic Association dues and distribute the neighborhood Directory. The yearly dues of \$10 per household make up the largest portion of the revenue for the neighborhood. J. Johnson will be stepping down as chair of the committee next year. *If someone is willing to take on this role, they should please contact B. Reynolds.*

Public Service (Streets & Sidewalks)

Tom Terry and Tim Reynolds volunteered to head this committee. It was agreed that speeding issues would fall under this committee too. Concerns raised by the membership included: the need for a speed hump at the top of Inverchapel Road; a left turn arrow for vehicles turning left off of Queensberry Road onto Braddock Road; vehicles doing U-turns off of Braddock Road at Adair and Queensberry; the large group of bikers traveling through the neighborhood failing to obey traffic rules. **B. Reynolds**

encouraged the membership to contact the Springfield Police Station and complain about these traffic concerns in hopes that the police will start ticketing violators in our neighborhood. The membership was also reminded to slow down and stop speeding in the neighborhood. The first step to slowing down traffic within the Ravensworth Community is for residents to slow down themselves.

Legislative & County Affairs Committee

Ruth Orem, who previously headed this committee, agreed to continue to head it. B. Reynolds will send her the dates of future meetings.

Schools & Education Committee/Shopping Center Lesion

B. Reynolds reported that volunteers are needed to be a liaison for both the schools (elementary, middle, and high schools) and the Ravensworth Shopping Center. *If someone is willing to take on one or both of these roles, they should please contact B. Reynolds.*

Zoning Committee

Ellen Eggerton provided an update for the Zoning Committee. She will be meeting with a lawyer regarding how the RFCA can enforce the fencing covenants of the neighborhood. *She will report back to the Membership at the next meeting.*

Entrance Committee

Katherine Craig reported that a company was hired to power wash the brick neighborhood entrance signs. The company will also paint the wood neighborhood sign on Queensberry bordering North Springfield. The wood sign will be painted white with black lettering in an effort to make the sign stand out from the trees and be more visible. Landscaping will also be done at the two Queensberry entranceways. New wood announcement signs are needed due to weathering at all three entranceways.

New Neighbors Committee

Gloria Brissman explained that working under this committee provides a great opportunity to meet new people in the neighborhood and see the differing décor of houses. When a new neighbor moves in, she delivers baked goodies and welcomes the individuals to the neighborhood. She reported that a new volunteer is needed to Chair this Committee. *If someone is interested in taking on this role, please contact B. Reynolds.*

Green Committee (Park and Recreation)

Jim Hickey informed the group of a few activities that would be occurring the week of Halloween at our neighboring parks. He also reported that there is a proposed possible de-staffing of the county parks. *Residents are encouraged to contact local officials and inform them of their feeling on this issue.*

Hospitality Committee

Ruth Hartman explained the duties of this committee.

Cultural Committee

B. Reynolds reported that various individuals have volunteered to be liaisons for the neighborhood to help communicate with neighbors who speak a different language. Spanish, Korean, German/Russian, and Arabic are represented. There is a vacancy for Vietnamese. *If someone is interested in volunteering who can speak Vietnamese or another language that is not currently represented, they should please contact B. Reynolds.*

Directory

S. Beste reported on the status of printing and distributing the Neighborhood Directory. Block Captains will be distributing the Directory between November and January. *If anyone has a new home phone number, they should either contact S. Beste or provide it to the Block Captain who knocks on their door so that the Directory is updated for next year's issue.*

Farmer

K. Powers provided an update on the Farmer.

Neighborhood Watch

B. Reynolds reported that a volunteer is needed to head a Neighborhood Watch program. *If someone is willing to take on this role, they should please contact B. Reynolds.*

Green Thumb Garden Club

Laura Asiello reported for this committee.

M. Lipsey reported that Ravensworth Farm's 50th Anniversary is next year. *If anyone has ideas on how to celebrate this anniversary, they should please contact her with ideas.*

Process for Spending

S. Beste led the discussion on the process for spending the neighborhood money and the authority of the Board to spend this money. S. Beste made the motion to authorize the Board to spend money only for the items and in the amounts approved by the general membership either in the annual budget or at a general membership meeting. There was a long debate on whether this motion is a change to the neighborhood By-Laws. Section 10.01 of the By-Laws state under Amendment:

*“These By-Laws may be amended, repealed or altered, in whole or in part, and new By-Laws made, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the members, **provided** that the By-Laws before being repealed, amended or*

*changed, or new By-Laws made, **must be proposed** at a regular meeting of the members and acted upon at the next regular meeting of the members”.*

Based on Section 10.01, B. Reynolds, the Chair of the meeting, stated that the motion by S. Beste was not allowed. Linda Beste raised A Point of Order, saying that the Chair was incorrect, and the motion was not a By-Law Change. L. Beste Appealed the Rule of the Chair.

The membership voted on the Appeal of the Rule of the Chair, whether to sustain the Chair’s ruling that S. Beste’s motion was a change to the By-Laws. The majority voted not to sustain the Rule of the chair, that the motion was not a change to the By-Laws; that it was just a motion.

Since the membership is unfamiliar with the By-Laws and not prepared to vote, Don Wilcox motioned to defer S. Beste’s motion until the next general membership meeting in March allowing time for the membership to read the By-Laws and be able to come to an informed decision. The majority of the membership voted no, not deferring the motion until the next meeting. The motion did not carry.

The membership voted on S. Beste’s original motion. The majority approved his motion to authorize the Board to spend money only for the items and in the amount approved by the general membership either in the annual budget or at a general membership meeting.

New Business: Operational Budget

R. Tun reviewed the annual operational budget. \$500 is being taken out of the reserve to balance the annual operational budget. Martin Shepherd made the motion to remove the “Eagle Scout Projects”, \$500, under Community Services and Events of the annual operation budget and add “Youth Leadership Development Project”, \$500, under Capital Expenses. The membership voted in-favor of this motion. The motion carried.

K. Craig made a motion to add “Pool”, \$500, under Community Services and Events of the annual operation budget. The motion was seconded, and the membership voted in-favor of this motion. The motion carried.

The motion was made by S. Beste to create “Contingencies”, \$1,500, in the annual operational budget to allow the Board some flexibility. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

M. Shepherd made a motion to add “Fire Department”, \$500, in the annual operational budget for the Springfield Volunteer Fire Department. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

The motion was made to approve the annual budget with \$7,000 being drawn from the reserve. The budget was approved by the membership.

Community Input for Projects

K. Craig made a motion to postpone the 8:30pm item on the agenda due to time constraints – Program: Community input for projects to allocate from savings and volunteers. The motion was seconded and approved. ***Community input for projects will be addressed at the next general membership meeting in March.***

K. Craig made a motion to schedule another general membership meeting in November. The motion was not approved by the membership. The motion did not carry.

The motion was made to schedule another general membership meeting in January. The motion was approved by the membership. ***A general membership meeting will be held in January.***

Eligibility of the 1st Vice President

J. Gibson led the discussion on the eligibility of the 1st Vice President to serve on the Board. J. Gibson made the motion that the 1st Vice President does not meet the residency requirements of the By-Laws and, therefore, there is a vacancy in the office of 1st Vice President. Section 2.01 of the By-Laws state, under Membership, that a Board member must either live in the neighborhood or own property in the neighborhood. The majority of the membership voted in favor of the motion.

B. Reynolds presented 27 proxy votes opposed to J. Gibson's motion. There was a debate on whether proxy votes would be allowed and recognized. B. Reynolds claims that the neighborhood by-laws are contradictory thus Virginia law under the Nonstock Voting Act takes precedence. This law allows proxy voting. L. Beste raised a Point of Order that the By-Laws do not allow proxy votes. The Chair disagreed. S. Beste Appealed the Rule of the Chair making a motion to not allow or count the proxy votes. The Appeal was seconded and approved. The votes present by B. Reynolds were not counted or recognized.

J. Gibson made a motion to hold a special membership meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2008, for the purpose of electing a new 1st Vice President. The meeting will be announced in the Farmer for delivery on November 22nd, thereby giving the ten days' notice required by the By-Laws. The motion was seconded. The majority approved his motion. ***A special membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2. A notice will be in the Farmer.***

Meeting adjourned at 10:30p.m.