

Greater Wilton Woods Citizens Association Meeting – February 26, 2008

Parry opened the meeting at 7:34.

Treasurer's report: The balance is currently \$4,803, after expenses such as National Night Out, Lee District Awards, and mailings

The Board met to set up the membership meeting schedule for the remainder of the year: May 20, Sept. 16, Nov. 18.

The Board also discussed the Florence Lane sidewalk project. We hope to see progress soon. Supervisor McKay's office is involved and assisting with this.

Parry announced that GWWCA coffee cups will be available in the future.

A mailer will go out within a month or so to all 800+ residents eligible for membership. Hopefully we will welcome some new members from this!

The board of GWWCA officers was elected. They are as follows:

President: Parry Carlson
Vice President: Larry Dempsey
Treasurer: Debbie Keatley
Secretary: Monica Boyle Rodgers

Board-appointed positions:
President Emeritus: Sam McCutchen
Community Improvement and Welfare: Melissa Lakey
Government Advisory Committee: Fred Haynes
Membership and Hospitality: Mary McCutchen
Public Relations: Bonnie Clark
Land Use Committee Representative: Hugh Southerland

Parry introduced Board of Supervisors (BOS) Chairman Gerald Connelly.

Supervisor Connelly was elected to the BOS in 1995. Below are notes of his presentation and questions and answers throughout.

- changes to FC in the past thirty years: growing senior citizen population, growing immigrant population, more jobs in county (used to be most commuted to DC)
- we need to make sure the county is better connected, need to address the changing needs of the county
- school system: has kept up with changes; still in top 3% of nation's schools, TJSST is top high school in the nation
- crime rate is at 32 year low, lowest crime rate in the 50 largest jurisdictions in the nation

- gangs are a cloud on the horizon; FC has been proactive in fighting it: focus on prevention, attention on middle schools and kids who could be targets: all 26 middle schools now have after school programs, partnered with Cox to start anti-gang effort, expanded tattoo removal programs, percentage of kids saying they belong to gangs has been cut 50%
- environment: new focus on flood plains, tree preservation, air quality (most pollution caused by vehicles)
- every new building built by county will be green: the life cycle of the typical government building is 50 years – by year 13, that building starts showing savings in operating costs
- more hybrid government vehicles
- tree canopy currently 41% (60% in 1970) – lower in earlier years (civil war years, also 1950s for dairy farms)—potential drop to 37% if county finishes growth—county is working on keeping that decrease from happening, with tree plantings at developments, etc.
- land stewardship: park authority (working to obtain 10% land of county, or 28,000 acres—currently at 9%)
- transportation: improvement in the past two years—General Assembly is coming around to Northern Virginia’s needs in transportation
- our society is auto-dependent, and changing that will take time. Telework would make a difference (over 20% of eligible FC workforce is teleworking).
- Arlington has 26 square miles and 11 metro stations; Fairfax County has 400 square miles and 5 metro stations.
- “missing link” of Fairfax County Parkway begins this year; improvements to Route 28; other improvements due to changes made by General Assembly.
- unemployment in FC is 2%; commercial properties are appreciating more slowly but still growing
- residential real estate values falling (est. 4-6%), foreclosures this year at 4,000 (20 fold increase from last year)
- this year will be okay fiscally, but FY '10 and '11 could be bad for the county
- interest rate decrease good for residents but bad for the county’s fiscal situation
- losing revenue from federal and state government investments

Q&A

- Ft Belvoir/Brac—there is talk of dispersing the jobs more than originally planned, which will be beneficial to our community
- Any additional metro stations in FC? There are plans to have eight total (increase of three).
- tax assessments were questioned; land increased dramatically but housing dropped; Connelly provided a vague answer
- airplanes/ noise discussed
- trash problem on areas roads attributed to reduction in Vdot maintenance funds
- new senior community in Lee District
- discussion on boarding houses—the FC Strike Team is working on this.
- Cameron Run flooding situation, buyout may be the least costly solution
- growth trends – slowing down
- participating with Alexandria City in working to close down power plant on Potomac River

Supervisor McKay stopped by. Here is a summary of discussion items and Q&A.

- park planning, plans to obtain additional land
- snow plowing
- There were plans to have a boy scout troop to do clean up on Telegraph Rd.; still in planning stages

- discussion of the murder on Otley Dr. No arrests yet.
- potholes
- telephone pole on Telegraph Rd. (near Wilton Rd.) was discussed—this has been hit multiple times; can large signs be erected to warn motorists?
- Springfield Mall: its owners is allowing leases to expire so it can move forward on improvement plans. There is a significant renovation project about to begin.
- traffic light at Clermont and Franconia Rd.—although it hasn't qualified in the past for one, residents can request a traffic count each year to determine whether traffic numbers support the need for one.
- tree planting restrictions on neighborhood streets
- strike force team work.

Parry adjourned the meeting at 9:12.