

GWCA Membership Meeting – Tuesday, September 20, 2016 (corrected)

Parry stepped in for Larry, who is out of town. Parry opened the meeting at 7:03.

Agenda:

- Welcome to all.
- Treasurer's Report: Parry reviewed the report with the membership. The report is available upon request.
- Parry reminded everyone of Nextdoor.com. He described it as a blog for the neighborhood. It also connects with nearby neighborhoods. There are currently 421 member households out of 999 eligible households. www.Nextdoor.com: please join if you haven't yet. This is a great tool for keeping in touch regarding many subjects, from crime in the area, to recommendations and requests for recommendations for various contractors, etc.
- By-laws changes:
 1. Eliminating the requirement to start each meeting specifically at 7:30 to allow for flexibility of meetings start times. The membership voted unanimously in favor of this.
 2. Yearly Board elections: the election has always been held at the first meeting of the year, which is in February. The board has agreed that the elections should be held at the last meeting of the year, which is November. That will allow for transition time from one board to the next. The membership unanimously voted in favor.
- Fairfax County Water Authority. Two staff members from FCWA public affairs presented to the membership.
 1. NoVa was beginning to grow in the 1950s, transitioning from a rural to a more suburban population. At this point, the water supply was a group of separately maintained water systems. Because much of this was comprised of wells, the supply and quality varied greatly. The BOS (board of Supervisors) created the Fairfax county Water Authority on September 4, 1957. The mission: to provide its customers with a reliable and abundant supply of water of exceptional quality water at a reasonable price.
 2. FCWA is a non-profit utility, and is one of the 25 largest water utilities in the US. It is governed by a 10 member board of directors, which is selected by the FC Board of Supervisors. There are nearly two million customers, both retail and wholesale.
 3. Regulatory oversight includes the Safe Drinking water Act, established by the US EPA in the 1960s. Also, the VA Department of Health provides oversight.
 4. Water sources: Potomac River and the Occoquan River and Reservoir.
 5. The Jennings Randolph Reservoir in WVA has been identified as an alternative in case of extreme drought.
 6. FCWA makes an effort to design water pumping stations to fit the area; for example, one is actually in a gutted townhouse that looks from the outside like one of the residential townhouses. Another is a stone building that resembles a barn. A third one is underground and contains a basketball and tennis court above.
 7. A future project is to create a new reservoir for more water as the population continues to increase. It will be at the Vulcan Quarry, where a hole has been dug for many years already, which FCWA will be able to fill. The first section will be completed in 2035.
 8. FCWA has recently opened the online customer portal for online bill paying, tracking water usage, sewer usage, etc. (The county bills for sewage but FCWA tracks it.)
 9. For more information, visit fairfaxwater.org.

10. Q&A:

- Insurance policy through Dominion Power? Yes; that is recommended. As a non-profit, FCWA can't offer it. This offers coverage if the sewer line between your house and the street breaks. Otherwise, the owner is responsible for all costs.

- Parry went over the crime report which included a couple of assaults in addition to theft.
- LDACO's meeting on 9/28 at 7:30 will be on the meals tax discussion. It will be at the Franconia Government Center.
- Contact gwwca.president@gmail.com if you have any questions about GWWCA.
- A few members asked about the status of the Penn Daw Development. Melissa was absent but the board will ask her for an update to provide at the November meeting.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 15, at 7:30. The guest presenter will be a rep from the FC Fire Department.

The meeting closed at 8:00.