

McLean Citizens Association (MCA)
Annual Membership Meeting
May 24, 2018
Draft Minutes

Call to Order

MCA President Dale Stein called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm in Churchill Road Elementary School. He recognized the presence of Delegate Kathleen Murphy and Supervisor John W. Foust.

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting of May 24, 2017 were approved by voice vote.

Welcome Remarks

Martin Smith, Second Vice President and Chair of the Membership Committee, welcomed the attendees to the meeting. He reminded the attendees that they can help increase MCA membership by informing their neighbors about the MCA.

Remarks by Supervisor Foust

Supervisor Foust provided his perspective on some topics of significance for McLean or for Fairfax County generally:

- ***County pensions.*** A Task Force had considered changes for new employees in the following areas: (a) changing the Minimum Retirement Age from 55 to 60; (b) change the "base" for calculation of pensions from the final 3 years of employment, to the final 5 years of employment; (c) eliminating the pre-Social Security Supplement (bridging payments for employees who retire before they are old enough to receive Social Security); and (d) increasing employee contributions to the retirement plan. These proposals will be considered by the Board of Supervisors in the near future. The Supervisor commended the good analysis on pensions done by MCA.
- ***Transportation.*** A major project to widen and enhance Route 7 between Tysons and the Loudoun County border will be implemented over the next several years. The project will include wide paths for pedestrians and cyclists. The extension of Jones Branch Drive over the Beltway, including pedestrian and

bicycle facilities, will provide an additional route into the northern area of Tysons. A pedestrian and bicycle path, including a bridge over the Beltway, will lead from Old Meadow Road to Tysons Corner Center. A path will be constructed between Lewinsville Road and the McLean Metro station. Reform of the intersection of Old Dominion Drive and Balls Hill Road has been funded, and options for reform of the intersection of Lewinsville Road and Spring Hill Road are being evaluated. The Supervisor said that he, Delegate Murphy, and Senator Favola have been working together on the problems associated with the American Legion Bridge. Maryland has set in motion a process leading to the widening of the Beltway in Maryland, including the American Legion Bridge. Governor Hogan's objective is for construction to start in 2020.

- **Land Use.** The Supervisor expressed disappointment that the proposed "Main Street McLean" project had stalled. The section of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan dealing with the McLean central business district is about 20 years old, and this plan will be reviewed over the next year. Streetsense consultants have been hired to assist in this process. The Signet residential project on Elm Street is nearing completion. The rezoning application for 6707 Old Dominion Drive is pending. County Staff have prepared draft legislation on Short-term Rentals, which will be reviewed by the Planning Commission before being considered by the Board of Supervisors. The limit on the number of rental nights is likely to be in the range from 45 to 90.

McLean Community Foundation (MCF) Report

Janet Tysse, MCF President, reported on the activities of the MCF. Since its creation in 1980, the MCF has made grants to 73 grantees. Recent grantees have included: Memory Care; McLean Little League, to support a seniors team; Winterfest; the Fire Department; and a stroke comeback center. Grants are funded by income from MCF's financial assets of about \$1.5 million. In order to enhance its grant-making capability, MCF aims at increasing its financial assets to \$2.0 million.

MCA President's Report

Dale Stein said that, while life in McLean is good, problems are emerging. The inadequate capacity of the American Legion Bridge and resultant Beltway congestion are generating significant traffic problems, abetted by apps such as Waze, on residential streets in the north side of McLean. Taking into account regional developments such as the Silver Line and Tysons urbanization, the upcoming review of the Comprehensive Plan relating to the McLean central business district is timely. The school system is facing challenges in providing competitive compensation to teachers, and too many students are attending class in trailers rather than regular classrooms.

Dale said that Committees carry out the core of the MCA's work, and he urged attendees to participate and contribute by joining an MCA Committee.

MCA Board Nominations and Election

As provided in the Bylaws, the MCA Board of 40 persons consists of 6 Officers, 20 Directors proposed by neighborhood associations (a Homeowners Association or a Civic Association), and 14 At-Large Directors. The number of seats up for election in May 2018 was 16, reflecting expiration of the terms of some incumbent Board members, and also departures.

Nominating Committee Report. Chairman Jim Robertson delivered the Nominating Committee's report, recommending a candidate for each of the two available Officer positions, and 14 candidates for the 14 available Director positions. In deciding on its nominations, the Committee had taken into account experience and qualifications, and geographic distribution within MCA's defined area.

Election for available Officer positions (2). Bruce Jones and Peggy Flaxman were elected by voice vote to the uncontested positions of Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary, respectively.

Election for available Director positions (14). In addition to the 14 persons nominated by the Nominating Committee for Director positions, 3 additional persons had been nominated by petition (pursuant to Section 7.4 of the Bylaws). There were therefore 17 candidates for the 14 available Director positions. Sheets with biographical information provided by these candidates were distributed, and paper ballots were also distributed, instructing the MCA members present to vote for no more than 14 of the candidates, with ballots to be placed into the Ballot Box before the adjournment of the meeting. The ballots would be tabulated immediately after the adjournment of the meeting.

Election of new MCF Trustees

The three persons proposed by MCF for the three available MCF Trustee positions were elected by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bill Crosby presented the Annual Treasurer's Report on the past MCA financial year. Revenues had been \$6036.61, while expenditures had been \$4713.70. MCA's net worth (financial assets; no liabilities) reached \$35,949.33 at the end of the

period. Bill also presented the budget for 2018/19 that had been approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting of May 2, 2018, showing estimated revenues of \$6300 and estimated expenditures (including a contingency reserve) of \$6300.

Finally, Bill reported on the financial review carried out by David Grayling, a CPA and former MCA Treasurer. The review found that the financial records had been maintained in good order.

Remarks by Committee Chairs

Budget and Taxation. Committee Chair Louise Epstein said that the MCA's annual Budget Resolution had recommended that the change in the property tax rate should be less than the 2.5 cents maximum that had been advertised. In the actual event, the Board of Supervisors decided to increase the property tax rate by 2.0 cents. After the MCA Board passed a Resolution calling for greater transparency in the allocation of costs for various County services, Supervisor Foust and County CFO Joe Mondoro met with Dale Stein and Louise Epstein to discuss possible changes. The B&T Committee is continuing to work on: (a) advocating for benefit changes to enhance the long-term viability of the County pension system; (b) property assessments versus actual sales price; and (c) County expenditures on public safety.

Education and Youth. Committee Chair David Lee said that teacher retention and the use of long-term substitutes are concerns, especially in some fields. The Committee had met with the new Superintendent to discuss the issues facing the school system. Four local high school students had recently been recognized by Teen Character awards on McLean Day.

Environment, Parks, and Recreation. Committee Chair Ed Monroe spoke. Phase 1 of the Dead Run stream restoration project had recently been completed, with good results in inhibiting erosion, restoring the vegetated buffer, and improving water quality. Phase 2 is ongoing. The Committee had recently sponsored two Resolutions passed by the MCA Board – one on synthetic turf fields, and another on the proposed Langley Fork Park/ Langley Oaks Park land exchange. The Committee has been collaborating with local youth and local organizations in the removal of invasive plants, and their replacement with native plants, in local parks. The Committee is looking into issues of salt management, trails, and stormwater management. MCA had recently commemorated the passing of Frank Crandall, a longtime Board member who had also served as Chair of the EP&R Committee for many years.

Planning and Zoning. Committee Chair Ron Bleeker reported. Proposals for which the Committee had prepared MCA resolutions in the recent past included: the Signet residential project on Elm Street; a Comprehensive Plan amendment for 6707 Old Dominion Drive; physical expansions or additional uses at some houses of worship; Capital One in the East Tysons area; and MITRE in the East Tysons area. Regarding

Tysons, progress toward achieving the Comprehensive Plan's goals/requirements for parks and athletic fields remains a continuing concern.

In the year ahead, the following matters will be considered by the Committee: review of the Comprehensive Plan for the McLean central business district; "The View" project in Tysons; "The Mile" project in Tysons; and a Comprehensive Plan amendment to enable mixed-use (including office) development on the WMATA property at the West Falls Church Metro station.

Transportation. Committee Chair David Wuehrmann said that, within the past year, MCA had sent letters to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and to the Transportation Planning Board on the need for expansion of the American Legion Bridge (ALB). It has not yet been possible to organize the contemplated public information meeting on the ALB. However, Maryland has recently begun to move forward toward expansion of the ALB. David expressed thanks to Delegate Kathleen Murphy for her efforts on the ALB issue.

The Committee had also prepared a Resolution passed by the MCA Board endorsing certain intersection improvement projects and sidewalk/trail projects for funding. Committee members are participating in a task force organized by Supervisor Foust on measures to mitigate the problem of commuters "cutting through" residential streets on the north side of McLean (to minimize their distance on the Beltway while heading north toward the ALB).

Public Safety. Patrick Smaldore reported that, as MCA Public Safety Liaison, he works in coordination with Fairfax County departments such as Police, Fire & Rescue, and the Office of Emergency Management, to address public safety issues. MCA co-sponsors Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training offered by the Fire and Rescue Department. Forty-four persons graduated from CERT training in McLean. Another CERT offering is being planned for the Fall of 2018.

Tysons. Committee Co-Chair Rob Jackson said that MCA participates in the Greater Tysons Citizens Coalition (GTCC). The GTCC is pushing on the issue of parks and recreation facilities in Tysons. Enforcement of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) is weak, and this is a cause for concern.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at about 10 p.m.