

Tara Leeway Heights Civic Association Meeting Minutes
(Draft for 3/20/03)

The meeting was called to order by president, Bill Braswell on Thursday, March 20, 2003 at 7:40pm at Ted Stump's house, 1616 Patrick Henry Drive. The following board members attended: Bill Braswell, Steve Loe, Emily Cunningham, Roberta Fox, Ted Stump, Frank Foote, Jonathon Newman, and Jim Meditz.

Old business

- Approved March 8th meeting minutes.
- Treasurer's report: Steve Loe did not have the account balances at the time of the meeting, but later reported that the checking account balance was \$168 and the savings account balance was \$670.
- Nominating Committee report:

2003-2204 Slate of Officers:

President – Bill Braswell
Vice President – Bill Sample
Treasurer – Steve Loe
Secretary – Open Position

All board members whose term expires in 2004 indicated that they will continue through the end of their term. This list includes:

John Vihstadt
Frank Foote
Meghan Leonard
Ted Stump
Jonathon Newman

Individuals that have expressed a desire to be on the board for the 2003 – 2005 term include:

Roberta Fox *
Jim Meditz *
Emily Cunningham *
Robin Schmid *
Patricia Cross
Ernie Bubester
Cynthia Shea

* indicates current board member

- The board next discussed the need to set up an annual meeting date. The general timeframe of the meeting would be mid to late May. The consensus of the group was that the Arlington Hospital Hazel conference center would be the preferred location. Bill took the action to contact the hospital and establish a date for the meeting.
- The board next discussed the planned renovation work at Swanson Middle School and the current efforts by the Westover Civic Association to delay the project. The planned renovation is in the process of going through the last several steps before construction is to begin (Transportation Commission meeting will be held in early April; Planning Commission April 14; County Board, April 26). In a last ditch attempt to block the project, the Westover Civic Association has changed their neighborhood conservation plan to designate Swanson as a historic landmark, to place a cap on student enrollment, and to include other items that would be in conflict with the current plan as proposed by county staff.

It was reported that the NCAC accepted the plan at the most recent NCAC meeting. It was noted that the Westover Plan amendment was *accepted*, but not *approved* by NCAC. The board next discussed what options were available to help support the Swanson project. Options discussed included attending the Planning Commission and County Board meetings and speaking in favor of the addition as well as sending letters of support. A motion was made and the board voted in favor of "reaffirming Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association's support of the Swanson Renovation Project as currently planned" and to submit a letter to the County Board and the School Board indicating the neighborhood's support. Ted Stump volunteered to draft a letter for Bill Braswell to send.

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- The board next discussed the opportunity to invite members of the Arlington County Board to a walking tour of the neighborhood. Bill Braswell indicated that the open dates would be May 3, June 21, or July 26. Possible routes would include the hospital, roads with speed bumps, WETA tower, and Trinity Presbyterian. No consensus was reached on a specific date, but Bill was to communicate civic association interest for the tour.
- The board next discussed proposed improvements to the intersection of 16th Street and George Mason Drive. Improvements would include an exclusive right hand turn lane on 16th Street (for traffic heading west, east of George Mason), nubs on 16th Street west of George Mason, and other modifications to assist pedestrians and traffic flow. A motion was made and the board voted in favor of submitting the proposed improvements to the NCAC for funding. The motion was adopted with the following amendments:
 1. No island be constructed on 16th Street (west side of George Mason) as originally planned.
 2. The plan includes a provision for no street parking on 16th Street between George Mason and Greenbriar.
 3. Need to coordinate with Waycroft-Woodlawn Civic Association

On a related topic, the board discussed the possible new traffic patterns as a result of the new development by the Ditmar Corporation along George Mason Drive. Frank Foote agreed to follow-up and possibly draft a letter on behalf of the Civic Association to the Ditmar Corporation.

- Bill Braswell next provided an update on the preservation and drainage around the large oak tree on 16th Street. Bill is currently working with Joe Fishbein Sr. in order to get the county to resolve the drainage issues. Bill indicated that Arlington County DPW agreed to meet with him to see what could be done.
- Emily Cunningham next provided an update on the Tara-Leeway Heights Neighborhood Conservation Plan. Emily indicated that she had received input from all but one individual to submit to the County; she expects to get feedback from the county staff by mid to late May.
- Emily Cunningham provided an update on the Neighborhood sign project. Emily Cunningham indicated that the sign at Harrison and 22nd Street has been relocated to the nub in front of 2127 Harrison Street. This was due in part to the significant signage already in place at this intersection. Emily indicated that there had been significant feedback in the Neighborhood survey regarding the sheer number and location of various signs on our streets (speed hump, bike path, etc.). Bill Braswell shared that he had contacted the neighbor on Lexington St regarding the sign location in front of his home and reported that they are in favor of the location.
- Emily also researched on the neighborhood "date established"; Bill Braswell had shared with her input on his own research, which dates the homes in his area back to 1936.

New Business

- The board next discussed the progress of the Walter Reed School / Westover Library project. Jonathon Newman indicated that the approval process is moving along but has run into some unexpected opposition from several Westover residents and Arlington County Preservationists who are looking for a way to preserve the existing Reed School building and incorporate it into the new project. The Site Planning Review Committee has put on hold their review of the project in lieu of these concerns. The board felt that the project should go on as planned but did not feel any action was needed at this time to counteract the opposition.
- Bill Braswell indicated that there seemed to be some confusion with Arlington County staff and the Civic Federation regarding the boundaries of the Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association. The issue involves the recent annexation of the Taratown Townhouse complex back in May 2000. Ted Stump agreed to provide the necessary documentation on the annexation process if required.
- Frank Foote next raised the issue on the traffic volume on Harrison Street with the recent opening of the Harris-Teeter store at the Lee-Harrison Center. He expressed interest in the current status of the reconstruction of the Harrison and George Mason intersections with Lee Highway. Little was known about the status and there was speculation that the project was on indefinite hold due to state budget issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm. Next meeting is scheduled at Meghan Leonard's house on April 19th, 2003.