

Forest Hill Neighborhood Association – April 8th, 2009

Meeting Minutes

Roger Clark called the meeting to order.

Minutes

- The minutes from the March meeting were not reviewed due to several board members being absent.

Finance/Membership

- Roger reported that the association budget has a balance of approximately \$12,000.
- He noted that 3 new members have recently joined FHNA.

4th District Update

- Kathy Graziano reported that the city's 2009 general fund has approximately \$26,000,000 less than last year.
- She noted that the following rate increases are anticipated:
 - Water: 2.1%
 - Wastewater: 5.2%
 - Gas: 3%
- The funds from the increases will be used to fund system upgrades and help offset the recent increase in the cost of water treatment chemicals.
- Kathy also reported that the proposed storm water utility is expected to include a \$45 (average) fee per city household. The specific details on the fee have not been approved yet.
- The Farmers' Market will open on May 2. Numerous food, coffee and other vendors have signed up to participate. FHNA will have a table at the opening event.

Social Committee

- Concerts in the Park - Bernard reported that all bands have been booked and that the schedule will be included in the upcoming FHNA newsletter.
- House Tour – the tour is scheduled for September 20th and the planning process is in full swing.
- Neighborhood Yard Sale – Scheduled for June 6th. Diversity Thrift will have a truck onsite accepting donations of furniture, clothes (they are doing us a favor, so no junk please!).
- House Flags – Orders will be taken in May, and the flags will be delivered in July (\$30 for members, \$35 for non-members).
- Park cleanup will be held on April 18th. Volunteers needed.

Neighborhood Watch

- Shannon reported that several incidents – involving suspicious visitors (47th St.) and a break-in (Forest Hill Ave.) have occurred recently.
- The Richmond Police 2nd Precinct has donated “neighborhood patrol” gear -- vests, flashlights and whistles -- to the association raise visibility and awareness of neighborhood safety. Neighborhood residents are encouraged to use this equipment. Office Reynolds recommended that, if used, that residents walk in pairs.
- Shannon also asked if the neighborhood would be interested in having a self-defense course made available. The group thought it sounded promising and agreed include a notice soliciting interest/participation in an upcoming newsletter.

Park Improvement & Related Events

- David Hathcock reported that restoration work on the Forest Hill park lake will begin shortly, and is expected to take 4-5 months. Dredge spoils from the project will be staged near the restrooms in the upper parking area and will be fenced off.
- Sunday In The Park will be held on July 19th. Several bands, a magician and a juggler have been scheduled. Volunteers are needed!
- Stone House – upcoming work scheduled on the house include kitchen and HVAC repairs as well as floor refinishing and new window treatments.
- Results from the recent online park survey were distributed to attendees. The top 3 recommendations were: 1. plant more trees, 2. fitness course/more benches (tie), 3. more trash cans.

Library Projects

- Crickett White reported that the VCU library is interested in collecting copies of neighborhood association documents (e.g., minutes, by-laws, historical information, pictures, etc.) for purposes of future study and archiving. David Hathcock reported that the Library of Virginia may also be interested in this type of information. The group agreed the idea sounded positive and will include a short article on this request in a future newsletter (if we decide to do it, volunteers to help collect information will likely be needed).

Historic Designation

- Lee Shewmake reported on Woodland Heights’ efforts to obtain Federal/state historic designation status, including some of the challenges and benefits. The group agreed to include an article soliciting interesting seeking similar designation for Forest Hill in an upcoming newsletter.

Next Meeting – will be held at O’Tooles.