

STRATHMORE-BEL PRE CIVIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 8, 1993

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Georgian Forest Elementary School

ATTENDEES: Al Ritter (President)
Dan Mann (1st Vice Pres.)
Mike Grady (2nd Vice Pres.)
Jay Moore (Treasurer)
Joe Fry (Past President)
Howard Byron (Board) Maribel Torres (Board)
Anita Fanning (Board) Dave Pullen (Board)
Mike McKeehan (Board) Bill Hammond (Board)
Arlene Thorne (Board)

ABSENT: Linda Bea (Corr./Rec. Sec.)
Sue Harris (Board) Deborah Robinson (Board)
Chuck Rodeffer (Board) John Bogle (Board)
Thom Carlin (Board)

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Dr. Stephen Tarason, Principal, JFK High School
Mr. Joseph Sacco, Resource Counselor, JFK High School
Mrs. Jeri Dali, PTSA Representative, JFK High School

COMMUNITY GUESTS:

Martha Fry Barbara Ritter
Pat Rodeffer Linda McKenna
Sharon Edwards Mike Goodman

General

Al Ritter presided over the meeting. The minutes from January 11, 1993 were accepted as amended.

The date of the monthly SBCA Board meeting was officially changed to the third Monday of the month. Dave Pullen verified that Georgian Forest Elementary was available and that he would contact the school to firm up the date.

With the changing of the meeting date for the Board, Thom Carlin indicated in a phone call to the President, he would be able to make it.

Financial Report - Jay Moore

The Financial Report was accepted as prepared. Jay indicated that the Bugle price is going up. He paid \$1,000 for the past two months' issues.

Special Guests

Al Ritter introduced Dr. Stephen Tarason, Mr. Joseph Sacco and Mrs. Jeri Dali from JFK High School. Dr. Tarason had asked to speak in front of our executive board to briefly discuss his "Vision for JFK High School for the Future". It was part of his attempt to create a better dialogue with the Community and to answer any questions people may have about changed at JFK. Since our Civic Association represents over 750 families and Kennedy is the high school our community feeds to, Dr. Tarason's desire was to have as many of those students as possible attend JFK.

Discussion:

- 1250-1280 students in school
 - Multi-cultural population
 - JFK has special offerings for
 - a) severely disabled students
 - b) physically impaired students
 - 70-80 students were lost to the magnet programs at Blair and Richard Montgomery High Schools (most for early year placement)
 - Security at the school has been enhanced through staff and student network. This has resulted less serious problems.

Dr. Tarason's Visions:

- Blair/Einstein/Kennedy Consortium tied together technologically
 - Possible leadership training program with WJLA
- Wants to keep kids at Kennedy and doesn't want to draw kids away from other schools.
- Wants to provide opportunities for kids in whole school, not just gifted and special need.
- Japanese and German languages will be introduced.
- Average SAT scores are not great.
 - 74% of kids took SATs. "It is not necessary for kids to take SATs if they are not planning on going to college."
- Trying to get "National Merit Scholarship" students.
- Attendance has traditionally been a problem and this is being addressed.
- Trying to get rid of 'negative school perception'.
- WJLA will be spotlighting Kennedy.
- Trying to make JFK attractive so that families won't send their kids to private schools.
- Trying to establish an alternative program in summer-special program for learning disabled students.
- In March JFK will host a Multi-Cultural Awareness Project.
- JFK is dropping Latin since most of the other schools in the County are dropping it. He indicated that only two high schools presently have it.

Dr. Tarason and Mr. Sacco answered questions from the Board and invited guests.

Internal Affairs

1. Neighborhood Watch - Mike McKeehan

The Wheaton-Glenmont Precinct got a new police chief. A meeting of the Advisory Council will be scheduled soon.

There have been a number of thefts in the Community from garage doors left open. A meeting will be held in the Community to address the problem.

2. School Liaison - Al Ritter

There will be a meeting of the Kennedy High School Cluster on February 22 with Mike Subin, Montgomery County Councilman. The Cluster consists of the two cluster coordinators, all principals of the elementary, middle and high schools and PTSA presidents from those schools. The issues to be discussed include the future of Kennedy, modernization of the facility and budget and educational concerns. Our Civic Association was invited to attend.

3. Home Maintenance - Dave Pullen

Dave has the name of a good plumber who did five jobs in our Community in 1-1/2 months for about \$1,800-\$2,000. People in the Community were quite satisfied with his work.

4. The Bugle - Bill Hammond

Articles are needed for The Bugle. Everyone was encouraged to submit some. Special thanks to Al Ritter for the articles he contributed.

5. Rec Association Liaison - Dan Mann

Paul Stagnitto wrote two articles for The Bugle. One related to the facility and the other had to do with new officers. The BPRA is also sending out a questionnaire to be filled out with the yearly assessment letter. The survey was strictly informational and deals with additional summer/year-round activities.

6. Community Yard Sale - Maribel Torres

The yard sale will be coming in the spring, probably at the end of May. Maribel needed at least three people to get yard sale going.

Jay Moore and Anita Fanning volunteered. There will be a small article in the March Bugle. The final date and format will be announced in the April Bugle.

External Affairs

1. Transportation - Mike Grady

Arlene Thorne indicated that there were three major accidents on Layhill Road and Briggs Road at the new lights. There is a feeling that the timing of the lights may be off.

2. Aspen Hill Master Plan - Arlene Thorne

A draft of the Master Plan is available. Arlene distributed three copies. There will be a meeting on February 18 where members of the Advisory Committee will give their comments and critiques of the plan.

The Aspen Hill Pet Cemetery will be the first historical pet cemetery in the country.

Vitro area will be zoned office. If the Vitro buildings are torn down, one million square feet will be allowed for rebuilding with an overall floor ratio of .55 being allowed.

WSSC lot - 18 acres under consideration for the proposed Wheaton Water Pumping Station and Storage Facility. If the land is declared surplus by WSSC, the plan recommends that it become part of Leisure World as affordable elderly housing project.

Among the recommendations was commuter parking lots on Layhill Road, apartments over stores in the Layhill and Northgate Shopping Center and the Inter-County Connector is a given.

Rockville facility designated to be transit road, no cars.

3. Zoning - Al Ritter

The Taco Bell restaurant scheduled to go into Plaza del Mercado was opposed by McDonalds. Our Civic Association with the Layhill Alliance raised concerns about traffic and safety. The Board of Appeals approved it with the proviso that MCDOT Traffic & Engineering approve the site plan.

4. Property Tax Assessment - Jay Moore

Jay has received a couple of calls about their property tax assessments being too high. Issue is property owners. Not much Civic Association can do, particularly with only a couple of calls.

5. Layhill Adopt-A-Road - Joe Fry

There is a planned cleanup of Layhill Road at the end of March.

6. Layhill Alliance Liaison - Jay Moore

- Super Majority for Board of Appeals

Currently any special exception (zoning issue) requires super majority for approval (4 to 1 rather than 3 to 2) Court battle ongoing over disapproved transfer station upgrade off Gude Drive because of 3-2 vote.

- Trash Tax/Incinerator

Solid Waste Fund is bankrupt and bill was passed to institute systems benefit charge. County has power to increase charge at will.

Incinerator is most expensive option and is dependent upon high volume of trash to be burned which discourages recycling.

Environmental coalition is petitioning to have tax brought to vote next November.

7. Systems Development Charge (WSSC) - Mike Grady
Most people are for it. We should support it. The Southern Maryland Builders Association is against it.
 8. Korean Baptist Church - Joe Fry
A new schedule is out which shows open and scheduled events at the ballfields.
 9. Beall Family Plot - Jay Moore/Al Ritter
 - The Layhill Alliance with our Civic Association is considering a community project to restore the cemetery.
 - There is much history associated with the Beall family dating back to Layhill land grant to James Beall from King of England in 1723.
 - Cleanup, restore headstones, possible historical plaque.
 - TV coverage is already promised.
 - Already volunteers from Beechvue Lane.
 10. MCCF - Al Ritter
 - Working on the FY 1994 Annual Growth Plan (ACP)
 - Strategizing on Montgomery County C.I.P.
 - Discussing privatization of some urban district functions
 - Opposing development districts
 - Supporting Solid Waste Planning
 11. Aspen Hill Homeless Shelter - Dave Pullen
 - Has Operating Board which meets annually. Layhill Alliance has rep on the Board.
 - Last year County asked for permission to use as temporary women's shelter for two months during the summer.
 - Was approved and used, however, the time it was used was extended to five months without notifying the Board.
 - Now approval is sought to convert it to a full-time women's shelter.
 - Dave Pullen attended meeting held by Aspen Hill Civic Association to sense public support for project.
 - Most people at the meeting were in opposition.
 - Dave distributed fact sheet on shelter that was proposed. Dave is liaison with Deborah Johnson.
 - Issues
 - future additions?
 - volunteer meals will be difficult if yearly?
 - snowballing problems?
 - merchants upset, claim shelter drives people away.
 - are homeless shelter people from our greater community?
 - alcohol is sold at 7-11.
- Please give Dave your opinions.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 15, 1993, at Georgian Forest Elementary School.