

CITY PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION CITY PARK CITIZEN

Issue 4

June 1992

Association VP Attends Providence District Council Meeting

Betty Charles, Vice President of the City Park Civic Association, was asked by the Association's board of directors to serve as the Association's representative to the Providence District Council. She attended the Council's June meeting in that capacity.

The meeting was held at Fairfax County's new Government Center, and the Council was given an extensive tour of the facility.

Council Chairperson Sally Ormsby gave a summary of the issues with which the council dealt this year. Among the major issues were review of the County budget, the County's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, and the oil tank farm on Pickett Road.

The Providence District Council, a non-partisan civic organization, provides a forum for

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Summer Picnic Set For June 27

The City Park Civic Association's summer picnic, membership drive, and meeting will take place on Saturday, June 27, from noon to 3:00 p.m., at the picnic area of the Jefferson Village Park. The meeting portion of the event will be brief and will be held at 12:30 a.m. An announcement giving details about the picnic was distributed earlier to all Association members. This picnic, the first social event to be sponsored by the Association, is being organized by a committee chaired by board member Joe Leocha. Judging from the response so far, the group expects a good turnout.

All Association members are invited to the picnic. In addition, non-members who wish to join the Association are welcome and may bring their membership applications and dues to the check-in table at the picnic. In order to plan properly for this event, the committee must know how many people to expect. They request that every household which plans to attend and which has not yet replied to the earlier picnic announcement contact Mr. Leocha on 237-8819 or committee member Albert LaFrance on 536-2420 by 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25.

Association Treasurer and local realtor Jim Feagins has generously contributed \$100 towards the cost of the picnic.

Volunteers are needed to bring food and drink (non-alcoholic) and to assist in preparing and cleaning up the picnic area. If you can help, please advise Mr. Leocha or Mr. LaFrance.

The committee hopes that all current and new members will take advantage of this opportunity to meet their neighbors and enjoy a summer afternoon in our neighborhood park.

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Residents Newsletter

President: Albert LaFrance
Vice President: Betty Charles
Secretary: Susie Brooks
Treasurer: Jim Feagins
Production & Design: Tom Saunders

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associations to express their views on major issues of common concern. The Council provides its views to county supervisors and state officials in an effort to reflect the concerns of the citizens in the Providence District. In the recent past, the Council has adopted a number of resolutions addressing land use, the ever-increasing tax burden on residential homeowners, bond referenda, affordable housing, and transportation.

The Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month, except in July and August. Howard Wolfson, an administrative aide to Supervisor Katherine Hanley, attends the Council meetings to provide a flow of information between Supervisor Hanley and the Council.

Anyone wishing to learn more about the Council should call Ms. Charles on 534-4962.

Betty Charles

Lost and Found

FOUND - A set of keys, several weeks ago on Summerfield Road.

Call Albert LaFrance on 536-2420, day or evening.

Board of Directors & Officers Elected

The first annual meeting of the City Park Civic Association was held on 13 May 1992, at 7:30 p.m., in the multi-purpose room of the Graham Road Elementary School. Approximately 30 Persons attended. Among those present was Pat Carroll, from the office of Providence District Supervisor Katherine Hanley.

Association President Albert LaFrance called the meeting to order and introduced Treasurer Jim Feagins and Secretary Susie Brooks. He announced that the Vice President's resignation had resulted in 6 additional Board of Directors positions being available.

The Secretary's report was then given, followed by Treasurer Jim Feagins' report. As of 12 May 1992, a total of 97 paid membership applications had been received. This accounts for approximately 18% of the homes in our neighborhood. Some dues received were for multiple years; additionally, extra contributions have been made by some members. Mr. Feagins encouraged all members to ask their neighbors to join in our mutually beneficial cause.

Debits charged to our account since 3 March 1992 are as follows: \$18.84 for meeting coffee supplies; \$5.80 for postage stamps; \$0.16 for underpayment of check printing charges and \$87.00 for Post Office Box (including \$2.00 deposit for Post Office Box keys), leaving an account balance of \$399.53.

Mr. LaFrance then asked members to please refer to the nomination ballots which were distributed by our Greeting Committee: Mrs. Jane Chapman and Mrs. Delores Driscoll. The ballot consisted of the following names: Steve Armstrong, Jane Chapman, Betty Charles, Mary Ann Daly and Joe Leocha.

Bob Ritter was nominated and accepted the addition of his name to the list. A brief discussion followed regarding the terms to be served by the board members. It was explained that in accordance with the by-laws the directors shall be divided into two classes until half, or one more than half where there is an odd number of directors, are elected in even numbered years and remaining positions on the Board are filled in odd numbered years; provided, however, that the first election will fill all positions on the Board and the newly-elected directors will draw lots to determine their class. It was explained the purpose of this rule is to provide continuity.

A request for additional nominees was presented and a motion was made to accept the six nominees plus the initial board members consisting of Albert LaFrance, Jim Feagins and Susie Brooks as City Park Civic Association board members. The motion was seconded and accepted unanimously.

After congratulations by Mr. LaFrance to the newly elected board members, Public Works Committee Representative Betty Charles was introduced.

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Betty stated she felt very fortunate to be able to report some good news to the City Park Homes residents. She introduced the committee consisting of Co-Chairpersons Susie Brooks and Mary Ann Daly, and members Albert LaFrance and Peggy Fewell.

She also introduced Pat Carroll from Supervisor Hanley's office, thanking her for the continued support and help provided by their office.

She reported that the Public Works Committee developed a survey which was distributed to residents of City Park Homes. The committee's thanks were extended to the more than 60 who responded. The results indicated degrees of dissatisfaction with the state of our streets, gutters, drainage, curbs and lighting, and the state of the strip of land between Route 50 and Jefferson Village Park.

Ms. Charles reported that at our March meeting our subdivision was listed as #272 in line for improvements according to VDoT. In mid-April Susie Brooks and Mary Ann Daly met with Pat Carroll to discuss concerns regarding (1) conditions of sewer storm drainage, curbs, gutters and existing sidewalks in City Park Homes and (2) our current street lights being at a substandard level. This meeting resulted in Supervisor Hanley's office contacting VDoT officials expressing the concern that City Park residents have regarding these matters.

Ms. Charles was pleased to announce that the committee had received a letter from Ken Wester, VDoT District Maintenance Engineer, advising that a storm drainage study was being conducted, that a contract would be presented in a couple of months, that funds had been budgeted in the FY 92-93 Budget, and that in the FY 93-94 budget monies were allocated to replace streets, curbs and gutters.

Ms. Charles advised that Susie Brooks and Mary Ann Daly both spoke with Ken Wester and Larry Hawkins to ensure that the interpretation of the letter was correct. Both Mr. Wester and Mr. Hawkins indicated that (1) storm drainage assessment was in progress and that they would advertise the contract in several months, (2) funds have been requested and budgeted for FY 92-93, and (3) replacements of curbs, gutters and existing sidewalks with street re-pavement will be done in FY 93-94 (and possibly sooner if work progresses rapidly).

On behalf of the Civic Association and the Public Works Committee a very sincere thanks and gratitude will be extended in forthcoming letters to Ken Wester, Larry Hawkins and Tommy Barnes of VDoT for pushing for these actions. Letters will also be sent to Pat Carroll and Supervisor Hanley thanking them for carrying our message to state and local officials. They all listened to our concerns and responded most favorably.

The Public Works Committee will now: (1) monitor the progress on the storm drainage program, (2) continue to work on the street

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City Park Civic Association

OFFICERS

Albert LaFrance
President

Betty Charles
Vice President

Susie Brooks
Secretary

Jim Feagins
Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Armstrong

Susie Brooks

Jane Chapman

Betty Charles

Mary Ann Daly

Jim Feagins

Albert LaFrance

Joe Leocha

Bob Ritter

Residents Review Cut-Through Traffic Issues

An ad-hoc committee is studying the problems associated with speeding and cut-through traffic on Summerfield Road and Marshall Street between Lee Highway (Route 29) and Arlington Boulevard (Route 50). Plagued for years with complaints about reckless cruisers and speeding commuters, the street is now host to a coalition of residents from both Greenway Downs and City Park Homes communities.

Topping the committee's list of priorities is safety for the residents and their children. Fortunately, no harm has come to a pedestrian or playing child, but many residents feel this is a dangerous problem. Their concerns stem from speeding traffic, particularly on Summerfield Road and Marshall Street, because of their continuity between Lee Highway and Arlington Boulevard.

Residents complain that speeding is often accompanied with roaring loud engines and occasional squealing tires. Additional noise is often associated with large trucks that travel the residential streets to avoid long lights at the intersections of Annandale Road and Route 50. Also, commuters find Marshall a short cut to Falls Church City and Summerfield a quick way to Route 29 and Route 66.

It is these cut-through

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lighting issue and strive to ensure that lighting is up to standard, and (3) continue to monitor progress on cleaning up the area adjacent to Jefferson Village Park. It was noted that the county has indicated that there are plans underway to improve the area. Finally, the committee will continue to seek advice and input from our neighbors as to any public works projects which should be addressed within our community.

A brief discussion period was then held regarding the proposed repairs.

Next, Neighborhood Welcome Committee Representative Joe Burrus was introduced. He stated the committee has held two meetings, attended by Chairperson Kay Burrus and members Joe Burrus, Peggy Carrington, Jim Feagins and Albert LaFrance.

At the first meeting, Kay Burrus was chosen as Chairperson. The meeting was devoted to defining objectives and identifying resources. The objectives decided upon were: (1) identify new residents, (2) make contact, (3) offer assistance, and (4) invite participation.

It was agreed that identifying new residents will require the assistance of the Civic Association; that an appeal will be made at each meeting for information identifying new residents, to be directed to the welcome Committee for follow-up. This follow-up would be in the form of a letter with newsletter enclosures, a metro plan and other items of interest.

The letter would also include Committee members' addresses and phone numbers as well as offers of assistance in answering questions about the community and its services.

A second meeting was held on 29 April 1992. The literature (extra copies of newsletters, letterhead paper, enclosures) was accumulated and the format and content of the letter was discussed. Peggy Carrington agreed to compose an article for the newsletter and submit it for publication.

Finally, it was reported that four new residents had received the welcome letter on Monday, 10 May 1992. Mr. Burrus ended with extending an invitation for participation and welcomed suggestions for enclosures, stating they need items of interest.

Special Events Committee Chairperson Joe Leocha was next on the agenda. He stated he envisioned a sort of pot luck affair to start at noon and last until around 3:00 p.m. at the Jefferson Village Park. He stated perhaps residents could bring their own food yet provide other items such as potato salad and covered dish type foods. Joe indicated that maybe the Association could provide the charcoal and paper plates. Questions were raised concerning the date of the event being the 4th of July. A lot of members were concerned with the holiday weekend and it was decided to put this to a vote of the membership. Two alternate weekends (before and after the July 4th

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weekend) were discussed and voted on. It was decided that 27 June would be the date the event would be held upon further approval from the Park Authority. Joe Leocha made a motion to have this event considered at the next meeting of the Civic Association. It was seconded and accepted unanimously. Joe indicated that he would accept ideas for activities and food through Sunday night (17 May 1992) and asked for volunteers to get in touch with him regarding operation of the grills, etc. He expressed enthusiasm and welcomed any and all volunteers to help make the civic association picnic a successful event.

Under New Business:

- The idea of a roster/directory was brought up and it was decided a committee would be formed and a review of formats and procedures by other associations would be looked into. The committee would need to address issues such as permission to print members' names, addresses, etc.
- Mrs. Stripe from Jackson Avenue announced she is an actress and is performing at the Alden Theatre, McLean, VA - June 11, 12, 13 at 8:00 p.m. and June 14 at 3:00 p.m. in a Performance of "Elegant Men, Beautiful Women, and a Few Regrettable Horse Thieves." Everyone was encouraged to attend.
- Neighborhood Watch Chairperson Deborah Tootle and Neighborhood Watch Committee member Jim Baker encouraged members to participate, as it is a worthwhile cause.
- Steve Armstrong extended his thanks to Albert LaFrance for the fine job he has done as President as well as to Susie Brooks and Jim Feagins as acting officers. He stated he felt everything since the formation of the Civic Association had gone extremely smoothly.
- It was announced that we now have a Post Office Box Number 2232 - to which correspondence should be addressed.
- Several members expressed a desire to have meetings at least quarterly.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m. with an announcement for the nine Board Members to remain for the election of officers.

Mr. LaFrance called the Board of Directors meeting to order and noted that this official meeting was required by the by-laws.

The first order of business was to draw lots for the terms to be served by the directors. The results were as follow:

Steve Armstrong	- 1 year
Susie Brooks	- 2 years
Jane Chapman	- 1 year
Betty Charles	- 2 years

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problems that the committee hopes to reduce, allowing children to play and positively influence the value of the areas homes.

The ad-hoc was formed when it became apparent that previous efforts to address and solve the problems of speeding traffic on Summerfield had been unsuccessful. For example, a petition in November 1990 requested that the state install signs a two intersection on Summerfield. That request went unheeded because the state will not put up signs in an attempt to slow traffic. The state says the studies show frequent stop signs actually aggravate drivers, and encourage faster driving between signs.

For speeding problems, enforcement is the best way to immediately act on the problem. Enforcement works by using radar to clock and catch speeders. Residents can request speed enforcement be set up by calling the non-emergency number for Fairfax Police (691-2131). Radar has been approved for use on both Summerfield and Marshall streets. Also, if a car is perceived to be speeding, you can report the license tag number to Officer Larry Clark, Crime Prevention Officer, who has been working in the area for over 10 years. Officer Clark will contact the owner of the vehicle and give a warning of possible infraction,

Regarding cut-through volume, the good news is

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Mary Ann Daly	- 2 years
Jim Feagins	- 1 year
Albert LaFrance	- 2 years
Joe Leocha	- 1 year
Bob Ritter	- 2 years

After a discussion period regarding the exact duties and responsibilities of officers a motion was made for Albert LaFrance to continue to serve as President. The motion was seconded and unanimously accepted. Another motion was made for Jim Feagins to continue as Treasurer and Susie Brooks as Secretary. This motion was seconded and unanimously accepted. A final nomination was made and seconded and again unanimously voted on for Betty Charles to serve as Vice President.

After congratulations from fellow board members a motion was made to set aside \$150.00 for the Association's costs of incorporation. It was also decided to join the Providence District Council for a cost of \$10.00.

Bob Ritter and Steve Armstrong volunteered to check on the exact costs of incorporating.

Jim Feagins volunteered to donate \$100.00 to the 27 June Picnic event.

It was also discussed and decided upon that the Board would meet every other month of even numbered months on the third Monday. Dates set were:

June 15th at 7:00 p.m.
 August 17th at 7:00 p.m.
 October 19th at 7:00 p.m.
 December 21st at 7:00 p.m.
 (December's date is optional at this time.) The meeting place of the Board remains to be determined at this time.

The meeting was then adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Susie Brooks

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that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has a cut-through traffic policy which recognizes that these problems exist and that something can be done about them. VDOT says that residential cut-through traffic is "traffic that passes through a specific residential area without stopping or without at least one trip ending in the area." In this definition, everyone agrees that traffic would be better served by a local street system intended for through traffic.

The cut-through policy allows for a petition, which, if signed by at least 75% of the total homes within the problem area, would initiate a study of the roadway network. VDOT defines the impact area for Summerfield, designated as a local residential road, as being bordered by Arlington Boulevard, Marshall Street, Lee Highway, and (approx.) Tripps Run. If the public and VDOT agree with the study's findings, the engineers will install diversion devices for an initial review. If an evaluation shows that the changes improve the situation, and the public agrees, the change will become permanent. Marshall Street is designed as a collector road, and does not qualify for the cut-through policy. However, Marshall Street may qualify for a study on the basis of safety.

Another Fairfax County area, Kingspark, has already completed the entire process. Faced with a cut-through traffic volume of almost 23,000 cars a day, engineered measures have cut the volume by 50% and reduced the average speed to 23 miles per hour. Kingspark traffic problems were solved by using a complex system of deterrents: limited access, restricted turning and entry, speed humps, and lane dividers.

By working together with our neighboring communities, a successful petition campaign and cut-through study could improve life in Greenway Downs and City Park for everyone.

If you want to get involved, or have any questions, City Park residents call Albert LaFrance at 536-2420, and Greenway Downs residents call Christopher Gribbs at 237-8259.

City Park Civic Association
P.O. Box 2232
Falls Church, VA 22042

CITY PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

☐ Own ☐ Rent

DUES: Please make check for \$5 (per household) payable to City Park Civic Association.

Mail to: City Park Civic Association

P.O. Box 2232

Falls Church, VA 22042

I am interested in serving on the following committee(s):

☐ Public Works

☐ Welcoming

(New Neighbors)

☐ Safety and Security

☐ Special Events

(includes Neighborhood Watch)

☐ Health and Zoning

☐ Traffic Control

☐ Newsletter

☐ Neighborhood Beautification

I/we authorize publication of the following information in the City Park Civic Association Community Directory: (check all that apply)

[] My name

[] My house number

[] My street

[] My home telephone number

Signed: _____ Date: _____

[] Please DO NOT list me in the Directory.

[] I am interested in advertising my business or profession in the Directory. Please contact me with the details.

