

BBHCA Community Meeting Minutes

Jennifer Davis, Secretary

April 18, 2023

Motion to approve the minutes of the 12 Jan Community Meeting passed.

Membership update

As of 1 January, BBHCA has 32 paid memberships/households (20 renewals and 12 new). \$660 dues and donations collected this year so far. Dues and gifts pay for the newsletter

Audit Report

An audit report is required by the BBHCA Bylaws. The Budget and Finance committee met w/BBHCA Treasurer Katie Mitchell in mid-February and audited 2022 records (bank statements, membership applications, and other financial documents). They reviewed for consistency and accuracy. The committee concluded BBHCA's fiscal health is excellent, and no dues increase is needed in 2023. Some of the key finance recommendations are to explore e-banking options, more earning/investment opportunities, and an electronic membership payment method.

Other general, nonfinancial recommendations included: announce the dates of the quarterly meetings in advance, ensure the newsletter is delivered two weeks prior to the quarterly meeting, offer an electronic version of the newsletter, and revise the Bylaws regarding the timing of the budget.

An attendee asked how many paying members are needed to meet the budget, Treasurer said 100 more, and noted that in the weeks after a newsletter goes out membership applications usually increase.

A copy of the audit is available online at <https://bbhca.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2022-BBHCA-Audit-Statement.pdf>

Treasurer's Report

So far in 2023, 3 expenses: \$590 for insurance, \$110 bond for the BBHCA Treasurer and President, and \$1392 to the printer for the April newsletter (835 copies for the bulk postage rate). Deposits totaling \$1090.

2023 Budget

Income: Projecting \$2500 in dues this year based on past years, and \$2000 in newsletter ads

Planned expenditures: \$6720. Includes bank charges, newsletter printing (\$4500 for 3 more issues), \$520 for a membership mailer (postcard); \$100 for copies, \$325 for webpage hosting; \$400 for Neighborhood Watch (see National Night Out information below); \$100 misc.

Motion to approve the 2023 budget passed.

A copy of the approved budget is available online at <https://bbhca.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/BBHCA-Adopted-2023-Budget.pdf>.

Neighborhood Watch Report

Seven volunteers got Fairfax County PD training earlier this year. NW Chair Carla Murillo-Gonzalez is taking names of additional volunteers and will schedule another round of training this summer or fall. The time commitment is low—training is one hour by Zoom video call, and teaches you to what to look for during routine activities. Carla is also re-engaging the community with National Night Out, which is Tues 1 Aug. This is a chance for neighbors to get to know each other and members of the police and fire departments. Franconia Police Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meets at Franconia Govt. Center the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7 pm, BBHCA has a representative attend, they are open to all. More information about CAC can be accessed online at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/getinvolved/communityadvisorycommittee>.

Land Use

Land Use Chair Carol Alim was not present, but Sharada Gilkey provided a brief update on the Rose Hill Plaza proposal in her capacity as president of the Rose Hill Coalition. On 11 April the Franconia Board of Supervisors accepted Combined Property's (CP) nomination into the work process but in a deferred status. This means CP has to further engage with the community, but "further engage" is not defined. There was a discussion of the County review and approval process and the best way to communicate our views to Franconia District Supervisor Rodney Lusk.

Guest Speaker Tammy Derenak Kaufax

Kaufax is Franconia's Representative to Fairfax County School Board. She has been on the school board for 12 years and a BBHCA resident for 26 years. She is currently Vice Chair of the Board and is not running for re-election this year.

She started with some figures about Fairfax County School District: board members represent the county's 9 magisterial districts, +3 at-large members. District has 179K students, 25K employees; it's a very diverse system, students speak over 200 languages and come from 190 countries; 20% speak English as a second language. Budget is \$3.5 billion, 70% taxpayer funded, 20% state funded, 1% from Fed Govt.

Currently in budget season, largest ask is a 3% raise for teachers and a 1% retention bonus. Also asking for more pre-K classrooms (10 added this year). Attendance in pre-K pays off exponentially – students start school with better reading and social skills. Franconia District has 23 schools, 11 have high poverty rates with over 40% of students qualifying for free or reduced meals. The Rose Hill Plaza plan is bad for the high and middle schools, which are already overcrowded.

Key accomplishments during her tenure: later high school start times, full school day on Mondays, "portrait of a graduate" – initiative to design curriculum w/business and college needs in mind; curriculum for learning disadvantaged students. Low point was politicization of COVID. She has mixed feelings about leaving the board but is staying in the neighborhood.

Question about timing for projects to be included in the School Board's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). CIP starts in the fall; district is on a 35-year renovation cycle; school bonds fund the CIP and residents vote on bonds when they are on the ballot for County elections.

Question about ongoing traffic study near schools. Residents usually request studies from the Board, and they are usually safety-related. No specific incident prompted the current one.

Added per the 7/11/23 meeting: The BBHCA Board will convene a committee to review and update the bylaws.