

Braddock District Council Meeting Minutes

11/15/23

Call to order: BDC Chair Bob Cosgriff called the Business Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Attendees: Sixteen in attendance including four (4) Council officers and webmaster (Cosgriff, Norman, Smith, DiMaina, Hannagan). There was a quorum.

Invited Speakers: Fairfax County Adult Protective Services (APS)

Tavna Limage and Allison Clifford conducted a thorough power-point presentation explaining the services offered by the county for those experiencing any form of abuse, neglect, or exploitation who is 60 or older (or 18 or older with a disability that affects decision-making). They offered a helpful printed resource guide published by the county for county seniors – a booklet titled *Aging Well!*

Secretary's Report:

Susan DiMaina explained why we will not ask for the “approval of the past minutes” at each BDC meeting: the minutes of the previous meeting will be submitted to the rest of the Executive Committee for perusal and approval before being presented at the next BDC meeting to those in attendance. At that time, if there are corrections/additions, the attendees are invited to comment.

Treasurer's Report: (October 31, 2023)

Truist Bank balance September 30, 2023: **\$4645.03**

BDC dues received (October): \$175 (Hickory Farms-\$50, Middleridge-\$75, Somerset South-\$50)

Truist Bank withdrawals \$0.00

Truist Bank balance October 31, 2023: **\$4,820.03**

Truist Bank balance October 31, 2023: \$4,820.03

2023 – 2024 Paid Members: 18

Dues Received (October): \$175

Total Dues Received to Date: \$1,100

Paid members (18) as of 10/31/2023:

Burke Centre Conservancy

Burke Cove Condominium

Canterbury Woods

Country Club View Civic Association
Fairfax Villa Neighborhood Association
George Mason Forest HOA
Hickory Farms Community Association
King Park Civic Association
Kings Park West Civic Association
Long Branch Civic Association
Middleridge Civic Association
North Springfield Civic Association
Oak Hill Citizens Association
Somerset South HOA
University Square HOA
Willow Woods Community Association
Woodbury Woods Community Association
Woodwalk Condominium

Two associations (Olde Creek/Surrey Square and Stone Haven) brought checks to the meeting, bringing membership up to **20** as of 11/15/23.

Aging in Place Report:

Marie Norman announced that Paul Hartwell (North Springfield), Aging in Place coordinator, was not available to come to this meeting. She and Paul recently offered the successful “Medicare 101” presentation by the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP) in the Kings Park Library, with about 25 people in attendance.

Marie mentioned her North Springfield Senior Outreach program which has at least 50 members and asked for those HOAs and Civic Associations who want to start Senior Outreach programs to get in touch with her. (Contact info on the BDC website.)

BDC Communications:

Charlotte Hannagan (Webmaster) reported that she is constantly adding new tabs and updating the BDC website. She said to tell her if there is something useful the membership would like to see on the website. She reminded everyone that, aside from the website, the BDC also has a presence on Facebook and Next Door. We also use MailChimp for mass e-mailings. We get two free uses per month. They do not roll over if unused.

Chair’s Report:

Bob Cosgriff reported on Membership saying that last year there were 24 paid members and this year we have 20 to date. There was discussion about how to attract more members and Bob pointed out that the Ex Comm is working on contacting a variety of neighborhoods but often correct contact information is difficult to come by. Current members were encouraged to reach out to residents they know in other neighborhoods and ask them to talk to their association boards to consider joining. It was suggested that we speak with councils from the other Fairfax County districts to see

what they do to increase their membership. (Mount Vernon and Dranesville were mentioned as an examples of active district councils.)

The current dues schedule was set in 2011 and Bob asked for input from the members. Should members have the option to pay every two years? Should we use a calendar year or a fiscal year and if a fiscal year, what would be the dates? One suggestion was to remind members three months in advance of whatever due date we choose.

BDC Bylaws were adopted in 2006 and need to be updated. Bob asked for volunteers for a committee be formed to work on that task. It was decided that those in attendance would look over the Bylaws and submit their suggestions to the Ex Comm by the 17 January, 2024 meeting. At the same time, the Ex Comm will meet to address the Bylaws changes.

Best of Braddock Awards: The Ex Comm recently met with Sally Kidalov and selected the winners from an excellent field of nominees. The awards ceremony will take place on December 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the Kings Park Library meeting room.

Ideas for future meetings/presentations:

- Emergency preparedness
- “Silver Shield” anti-scam program
- Supervisor Walkinshaw should attend every BDC meeting for a quick update
- FCC (to talk about internet provider issues/consumer protection)
- Identifying and eliminating invasive plant/tree species in yards

Input from Attendees:

Mike Perel (Oak Hill) announced his wife (the Braddock District representative to the Fairfax County Tree Commission) is organizing the Fairfax County Tree Forum to be held in the Kings Park Library Meeting room on 20 March, 2024. He also mentioned that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association is meeting to talk about Community Preparedness on Thursday, 16 November at the Mason District Government Center.

Doug Dane (Stone Haven) reported that all new neighborhoods, regardless of number of houses/units, are required by law to form an HOA.

Fred Knowles (George Mason Forest) asked if anyone has heard about the Corporate Transparency Act (which takes effect 1 January, 2024) and the effect it could have on those who volunteer to serve on their community association boards. It was suggested to ask Rep. Gerry Connolly’s office for clarification. Bob Cosgriff said he would look into this law further to find out if its reporting requirements apply to HOAs.

Adjournment: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.