

## April 27, 2010 Nevca Annual Membership Meeting

### Vienna Community Center

**Welcome Members & Visitors.** By Dan Mulville, NEVCA president. Dan introduced State senator Chap Peterson, Steve Jerry of Congressman Connolly's office, and Jennifer Henry, Fairfax Neighborhood Advancement Grants office. Recognized as well are Vienna mayor Jane Seeman, council members Edythe Kelleher, Mike Polychrones, Laurie Cole, Laurie DiRocco, and Howard Springsteen. Lastly, current NEVCA officers were recognized.

Minutes of our last annual meeting were sent to members in NEVCAnotes. Invitation to add, change, correct? None heard, so minutes approved.

**Treasurer's Report.** Susan Stillman reported \$1,361.24 in the treasury. \$600 was spent producing and mailing the newsletter, but \$625 in advertising receipts more than covered it.

**NEVCA board election.** A quorum not being met, no elections were held. Officers will continue in their current positions.

**Northside Park and W&OD Trail Status Report.** By Bob McCahill. Bob summarized recent park news, and highlighted remarks he made before the Fairfax County Planning Commission's Tysons Corner planning committee's public meeting on January 27, 2010. At that meeting, Bob spoke in favor of retaining Ragland Rd Park as a natural buffer park adjacent to Tysons, encouraged smart and convenient bike/pedestrian access to Tysons from Vienna, and limited spillover lighting from buildings to hopefully maintain existing night skies Vienna residents enjoy.

**NEVCA's Grant from Fairfax County.** By Dan Mulville. Dan reported on the \$3,100 Fairfax Neighborhood Advancement grant. The grant focused on Northside Park. DPR director Cathy Salgado scheduled invasive plant removal/native planting for April 10 and 25, and students from Kilmer Intermediate and James Madison HS earned a combined total of 60 service hours. Dan talked with the Horticulture Club of JMHS, and another planting with remaining grant money is scheduled for the fall. The Town acquires the plants at low cost, allowing for more plants to be acquired and placed, all paid for with grant money and volunteer hard work. It is wonderful to see more people actively involved in our parks.

### Reports from Richmond.

CHAP PETERSON (Senator, 34<sup>th</sup> District) reported on the 60 day January-mid March session just ended. State of the state is good, indices point upward but revenues still are running a bit behind over the last 12 months so budget cuts will still be required. No tax increases are envisioned. Fairfax enjoyed a big increase in schools funding, approximately \$60 million. Fairfax and Loudoun were the only two groups to see school monies increase. The Virginia retirement system was discussed briefly. The state will be cutting back from 11 cents to 8 cents on the dollar benefits for existing employees beginning July 1. Tough choices were made, but by and large the state is well-managed. ([www.fairfaxsenator.com](http://www.fairfaxsenator.com))

MARK KEAM (House of Delegates, 35<sup>th</sup> District) also discussed how the down economy was a factor recently, and that it is a tough time to be in public service. Simply cannot fund everything the way we would like. Jan-March involved tough restrictions. Mark's goal is do no harm, and thinks a fair balance was met. The federal government has been generous with stimulus funds, but that will end. Mark is staying on top of the Tysons of the future and will be talking with government officials and private citizens to get their input. Looking forward to working with all to make Tysons corner accessible to all. ([www.delegatekeam.org](http://www.delegatekeam.org))

### Introduction of Town Council Candidates.

MAYOR JANE SEEMAN. Focusing on two major subjects: Tysons Corner development & Maple Avenue Vision.

*Tysons Corner.* Jane distributed copies of two Washington Post articles: *Public weighs in on Tysons Corner's proposed changes.* April 23, 2010, by Kafia A. Hosh, and *Tysons Corner 2.0.* April 23, 2010. Op ed.

Jane and Laurie Cole have attended meetings to protect Vienna from the huge development's negative effects. Is cautiously optimistic that 20 years out we will see an 85 million sq. foot growth limit, more favorable than the much higher limit that developers proposed. We have to protect Vienna from traffic, stress on things like playing fields, spillover effects from lighting (kept to a minimum). Jane provided handouts of articles written on such meetings. Jane is on the planning committee investigating options for bus, bike, walking to and around Tysons. Jane invites everyone to send an email to your supervisor with your thoughts. Doesn't have to be long, but request 20 year limit of 84 million square feet.

*Maple Avenue Vision.* This has been discussed for 10 years now. What do we want Maple Avenue to look like? Height

limits? Need your help, your input. We will hold public hearings. Church Street is turning out really well. Many new stores. Everything is coming together. Stay tuned.

**LAURIE COLE.** The Tysons Corner issue has indeed been a priority. Wonderful participation of NEVCA members in the discussion was recognized, in particular Dan Mulville's letter of support. The Greater Tysons Citizens Coalition (GTCC) has made a difference. It has been an uphill struggle, but there are hopeful signs. 20 years = 84 million sq. ft. limit. Public input is still open, so let them know what you think. Issues include affordable housing, to which developers are raising objections, a \$\$\$ issue. Another issue is how transportation improvements will be funded, and Vienna and McLean want to have representation on the 'implementation authority.' There is much more work to do: Tysons will change, but we want to make it for the better. On another note, sidewalks of Vienna are important. We want to do the right thing for the community as a whole, and Vienna needs more sidewalks. Contact Laurie at [lgcole-Vienna@cox.net](mailto:lgcole-Vienna@cox.net) .

**EDYTHE KELLEHER FRANKEL.** Encouraged everyone to weigh in on Tysons development, be as detailed as you wish. Vienna cannot become a poor step child, we want to remain fresh. Vienna has attracted professionals who can write for gratis Vienna ordinance language. Edythe talked of the new vehicle registration fee. In the Town budget, there is allowance for a \$33 fee, that under state law, if we did not adopt, would be paid anyhow, but to Fairfax County. In turn however, this new revenue source should allow some small relief on the Town real estate tax side going forward. The town has seen an increase in road repair costs and water rates. A consultant will study/evaluate Vienna's system and compare to others. [www.edythekelleher.org](http://www.edythekelleher.org) .

**MIKE POLYCHRONES.** Mike cited his experience serving 8 terms on council, and how he is looking forward to the Maple Avenue Vision discussion. It will have the look and feel of the main business district; we must keep the business community viable. Regarding Tysons development, the Fairfax planning commission and supervisors know what council thinks, but needs to hear from the citizens, via constituent letters, etc, which gets their attention. Mike talked of the budget. Employees are not getting raises this year, but there are no layoffs. The re-imposition of the vehicle tax, while not desirable, if has to be paid, rightfully now comes to Vienna. Half of the proceeds will go to maintain our roads. Mike mentioned that a senior leadership manager will be departing Vienna soon, and so Council will be searching for good people to carry forward.

### **Questions for the Candidates.**

**Question:** A SW Vienna citizens meeting on traffic focused on Lawyers Rd. and Beulah Rd. modifications. Other intersections will be impacted. What are your views on dealing with traffic in town going forward?

**JANE SEEMAN:** At that meeting, council asked to look at 9 intersections, but only four were deemed candidates. Public transportation should also be considered.

**Question:** Regarding the town water and sewer, where do we get our water from, and how will any proposed changes impact us?

**EDYTHE KELLEHER:** We have purchased Fairfax water and Fairfax City water at different times, but now about 100% from Falls Church. There are lots of restrictions. Regarding sewer, it is *ours* and we purchased/planned for overcapacity. We can make an issue of it to generate income. There are lots of questions and requests for proposals.

**MIKE POLYCHRONES:** Re town bonds this year, some will be for sewer re-lining, with plastic. First time in four years.

**LAURIE COLE:** Two years ago, Fairfax water authority said they would take over the water and not give us anything for sewer capacity, which they desperately need. Council said that was not a good offer, so declined. Only would give us retail rate, so we switched to 100% Falls Church. So, if we do put it on the market, need to do a study. Best for the citizens.

**Question:** What about sidewalks?

**LAURIE COLE:** We get lots of matching funds because we have money available to go get them, from VDOT, federal, etc.

The question and answer period closed, and Dan Mulville thanked the candidates and wished them success.

**New Business.** Mary Ellen Larkins recognized MICHELLE SCOTT from the Shepherd's Center. Everyone should pay close attention to what is coming down the pike. The Center provides a series of seminars. Thursday classes. 150+ volunteers provide the series. More requests all the time.

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