

Braddock District Council of Community Associations, Inc. (BDC)

Grass Mowing on Braddock District Roads

Information for a Vote on the action BDC is to Pursue

(All information and the ballot is also available at www.bdcfx.org)

Summary: To improve highway safety, visibility, and beauty, members of the BDC desire that grass mowing be more frequent for certain major roads in Braddock District, Fairfax County, Virginia. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is responsible for mowing but due to decreased state funds, reduced its mowing to three (3) from five (5) per season. Many Association members feel this is unsatisfactory and requested the BDC to propose options to get more mowing per season. The BDC Grass Committee presented background and several options at the January 12, 2010, monthly BDC meeting but no vote was made. Additional research was compiled to clarify options. To focus the BDC on the option to pursue and to represent the majority of BDC members, a vote by ballot is herein provided (see *2-BDC Grass Cutting Ballot*, enclosed).

Discussion: Communities and residents have expressed displeasure with frequent tall grass due to lack of mowing on many Braddock District highway and road medians. This has negative impacts on public safety, driver visibility, and roadside and community beauty along these roads. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) mowed three times in 2009 and plans to mow only three times in 2010. BDC representatives have heatedly discussed this grass issue in many BDC meetings and with Braddock Supervisor Cook. The BDC has researched procedures and provided options for the BDC to follow in solving this issue. The following facts contribute to or must be considered with any decision to pursue:

- To make an impact for 2010, the BDC must soon determine its focus and action.
- The BDC believes that two (2) additional mowings would provide an acceptable level of safety, visibility and highway beauty.
- The BDC has received a contractor estimate of about \$4,000 to cut the median grass two times on only Braddock Road from Queensberry Drive to Roberts Road.
- VDOT has guidelines for citizens mowing roads (see *3-VDOT Mowing Permit Guidelines*, enclosed).
- Since is this a new approach to community management, the voted Option may require changes as the BDC receives Associations support, as progress is monitored, or as details are discovered during implementation.
- The BDC recognizes that the option selected may not be deemed the optimal choice for some Association members.
- BDC Associations in good standing (2010 dues paid) may vote on the options herein.

A method to mow certain roads: The most complaints about tall grass are on certain high volume divided roads. The Grass Committee proposes that due to safety and resources availability, grass mowing in Options **A** and **B** be done in three phases (see *4-BDC Phased Mowing Map*, enclosed).

- **Phase 1** is to mow road medians on Braddock Road (from Queensberry Drive to Roberts Road), Burke Lake Road (from Rolling Road to Burke Road), Guinea Road (from Bronte Drive to Lakepointe Drive), Rolling Road (from Burke Lake Road to Lake Braddock Drive) and Roberts Road (from Guinea Road to Olympic Drive).

- **Phase 2** is to mow road shoulders for each road section identified in **Phase 1**.
- **Phase 3** is to mow medians and shoulders of the roads shared with adjacent Fairfax Districts (roads Braddock Road, Little River Turnpike, Ox Road, and Rolling Road).

Key considerations for All Options:

- Safety - for mowing crews, pedestrians, motorists.
- Liability - personal injury, property damage, coverage.
- Beauty – the visual appeal of Braddock District roads.
- Environment - trash pick-up, fuel spills, clogging drains, tree/shrub/plants damage.

Association Eligibility, Vote Strength, Dues:

Article III of the BDC By-Laws declares that “Membership in the Council is open to all community associations located in or partly in the Braddock Magisterial District”, and “Community associations in good standing (*i.e., 2010 dues paid*) shall have voting strength in Council meetings as follows:”

<u>Associations representing</u>	<u>Vote Strength</u>	<u>Annual Dues</u>
(1) Fewer than 100 housing units	one vote	\$25
(2) 100-500 housing units	two votes	\$50
(3) 501-1,000 housing units	three votes	\$75
(4) More than 1,000 housing units	four votes	\$100

Action - VOTE: BDC Associations in good standing are requested to review and discuss within their communities these proposed options then submit their vote on the ballot form. Instructions and dates are included on the ballot.

The **February 9** BDC meeting opens at 6 PM with light snacks, a 6:15 PM call for all ballots, then at 6:30 PM starts with the scheduled program, the **BDC Information Forum**.

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PROPOSED OPTIONS

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VOTE FOR ONE option on the BALLOT for BDC GRASS MOWING

Membership opinions have been incorporated into each Option to include the primary activity (in bold) for BDC to focus on and two secondary activities supporting the primary activity.

A. BDC raise funds to hire Contractor(s) for grass mowing

- (1) Ensure Individuals and Organizations mowing grass adhere to existing guidelines
- (2) BDC keep State and County officials informed of prior mowing displeasure from Associations and of new mowing results from contractor.

B. BDC organize Braddock Associations for grass mowing

This Option would create and train work parties of Association members, rent or buy mowing and safety equipment, and coordinate mowing dates and locations with VDOT.

- (1) BDC manages all funds donated by member Associations for potential contractor(s)
- (2) BDC keep State and County officials informed of prior mowing displeasure from Associations and of new mowing results from contractor.

C. BDC advocate for State and County Policy and Revenue Changes in mowing

- (1) Ensure Individuals and Organizations mowing grass adhere to existing guidelines
- (2) BDC manages all funds donated by member Associations for potential contractor(s)