

BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL of Community Associations, Inc.

Minutes for April 13, 2010, Meeting (The Legislative Forum)

Chair:

- Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM (light refreshments were served).
- Welcomed the audience, the six State Senators and Delegates, and Supervisor Cook.
- Called for a summary of **the Grass Mowing issue**: Bruce reaffirmed BDC will follow vote of membership to pursue changing mowing laws by coordinating with our representatives in Richmond. Chair announced **a meeting in May** to organize the effort and apprised elected officials that we will solicit their advice in how to make this pursuit successful. Information on how to make grass cutting on Braddock roads safer will be distributed among member associations. Any funds donated will be used to hire contractors for mowing certain medians. A member's comment about failure to include a "No Action" option in the vote was noted.
- Reminded attendees that the more **U.S. Census forms** returned, the more State & Federal funds Fairfax will receive. A call for a show of hands of who has already sent in the form showed most has done so and lent emphasis to its completion.
- Announced **Committee Volunteers**: (*BoB and Nominating still need one volunteer each.*)
Best of Braddock Awards Selection: Bruce Wallachy, Sam DiBartolo, Shirley DiBartolo
Braddock District Picnic: Bruce Wallachy, George Klein, Mrs. Crabtree, Sam & Shirley
Nominating Committee BDC officers: Randy Crabtree, Jan Hedetniemi
(Chair noted that Jan is not seeking reelection as Vice-Chair, BDC.)

Supervisor Cook:

- **Wakefield Chapel Drive Community Meeting**: Thursday, April 29th, on Community Road Issues
- **GMU-Fairfax City-Braddock District Forum**: Next Meeting Monday, May 5th in Fairfax City Hall on Transportation Issues, Route 123/Braddock Road Intersection, and University Mall Upgrade
- **County Exploring Bigger Role in Road Maintenance**: County looking at partial or complete takeover of VDOT actions.

Treasurer's Report:

2010 BDC balance	\$ 2,900.39
Includes \$100.00 BDC dues (1 association) received in March	
Braddock Beautification balance	\$ 1,841.96
Mary Read Memorial Balance	<u>\$ 610.12</u>
BB&T account balance a/o 13 Apr	\$ 5,352.47

Future Events:

BDC Meeting: Tuesday, May 11th, at 7:30 PM in Braddock Hall

BDC Elections, Tuesday, **June 8th**, at **BDC Meeting**

BOB Awards Announcements, Tuesday, **June 8th**, at **BDC Meeting**

Braddock Picnic and BOB Awards, Tuesday, July 13th

The Legislative Forum

Invited speakers addressed many topics and participated in responding to many audience questions. (See the attachment for more details.)

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM (43 attendees and guests)

Submitted by:
Bruce Wallachy
Secretary, BDC

Approved by:
Bill Barfield
Chairman, BDC
19 April 2010

Attachment: Legislative Forum invited speakers and topics addressed

Legislative Forum invited speakers and topics addressed

Guest Legislators: State Senators: George Barker, Dave Marsden, Chap Petersen
State Delegates: David Bulova, Eileen Filler-Corn, Vivian Watts

Summary: Legislators spoke for 5 to 15 minute each on their recent legislation and activities then participated for 35 minutes in Question & Answer from audience interests.

Key Points:

- Northern VA members worked collectively to reverse Gov Kaine's suggestion to freeze the **Local Composite Index (LCI)**. Resulted in \$61M increase for our schools to maintain standard of quality.
- Legislature cut **Virginia Retirement System contribution** (from 11% to 8%) which will result in the start of a tiered system beginning in July 2010 for new state employees. The legislature also bet on recovery of economy and stock market to help mitigate cuts.
- State Budget **required cuts (-\$2B)**, resulting in programs for At Risk groups being cut or eliminated.
- State revenue (~55%) comes from **Income Tax and Sales Tax**. These two revenue sources generally lag the real estate tax recovery, which is primary source of county revenue.
- **Some relief for Self Managed HOAs** has been passed to reduce burden imposed earlier by CCI laws, which were meant to address abuse and deficiencies seen in large HOAs managed by professional firms. For example, costs for disclosure packages can now be charged before real estate closure.
- Legislator's awareness that **distribution of VDOT funds are not accomplished using an objective standard**. Also, their awareness that local communities do a better job than VDOT. Some changes have been made to the laws that open opportunities for change.
- **Awareness that Cities receive substantial State help for roads** where counties lack proportional financial support.
- **New laws for road side signage**. County can remove signs immediately (no 3 day wait) excluding weekends or for special dated event signs, can impose \$100 fines and fees can be retained in county for illegal signs.
- **Three amendments are coming in Fall 2010 for vote:** 100% property tax relief for Fully Disabled Combat Veterans; more local control for taxation of senior's assets; and 50% increase in State "Rainy Day" fund.
- New **Federal laws coming for urban fertilization** (lawns, gardens, etc) to protect Oxygen Levels in Chesapeake, to help fishing industry, to help jobs. 11% of current problem attributed to urban areas.
- **No program offered this year to readjust funding revenue for roads maintenance and construction**. Stop-gap measures and omissions plus unexpected costs are forcing deferral of VDOT efforts, which will cause more costly solutions later.
- **Northern VA metropolitan mass transit systems suffer from three separate jurisdictions'** (VA-DC-MD) fiscal support. Results are that fares generally cover operating expenses, but recapitalization is woefully lacking resources.
- **VDOT Will provide 3 grass mowing this year, but no repaving.**