

Subject: Braddock District Council Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: September 8, 2009

Chair: - Meeting called to order with Pledge of Allegiance.

- Chair welcomed attendees and **described this year's focus is to reach out and encourage friends and neighbors to actively contribute to their community.** While solid supporters continue, BDC invites experienced as well as new Braddock residents to participate.

- **Change of BDC Leadership Activities & Announcements:**

- o Treasury Bookkeeping and all other BDC files have been transferred
- o Treasury Account signatures at BB&T have been changed to new Treasurer & Chair
- o Braddock Road Memorial Tree fund monies have been transferred to BDC Treasury to maintain as sub-account, reducing needless bank handling fees
- o Braddock Road Memorial Tree Fund non-profit corporation being concluded
- o Emphasis placed on adding & verifying Braddock email contacts and e-addresses
- o Working closely with Braddock Supervisor's office on e-addresses of residents
- o Dottie Dane agreed to head **Membership Committee**
- o Tena Bluhm agreed to head **Braddock Forum and Braddock Picnic committees**
- o Bruce Wallachy agreed to head the **Communications Committee**
- o BDC Dues Invoices being prepared for distribution.

Treasurer's Report:

BDC Balance:	\$4,173.07
Braddock Beautification balance:	\$1,751.96
Mary Reed Memorial Balance:	\$610.12
2010 BDC Dues Received to Date:	\$100.00

Supervisor John Cook's Summary:

- **Braddock Nights** were a great success. **Over 500 attendees each weekend** at 3 locations (Lake Accotink Park, Royal Lake Park and Ossian Hall Park. **Jan Hedetniemi (Vice Chair)** received plaque from Supervisor Cook honoring her Emcee role at Ossian Hall Park.
- Largest **County Issues** (Budget Shortfall & Transportation Funding)
 - o **Budget Shortfall of \$315M forecasted** IF revenues & expenditures stay the same. Even IF (not decided yet) there were a \$0.15 increase in real estate taxes, a \$100M shortfall would remain. Supervisors are **looking at serious changes** to remedy issue.
 - o **Transportation Funding:** VDOT responsible for almost all roads in county. VDOT transportation construction funding has basically ended. No major construction or even spot improvements (intersections, lane extensions, etc) will occur. Some stimulus funding has been received. Maintenance comes out of VDOT funding before any construction yet even maintenance funds are short for activities like grass cutting, drain/pothole repair, etc.

- Starting **Community Engagement Initiative**:
 - o Theme “**You Don’t Have to Move to Live in a Better Community**”
 - o People still have the **Desire and WILL respond**.
 - o Supervisor is working with several groups such as Volunteer Fairfax, Braddock District Council, etc., to develop the program.
- **Leadership Institute** Being Organized:
 - o Provides training for community leaders on running organizations and Fairfax services.
 - o Examples: How to manage financial aspects, How to recruit, etc.
 - o Target Dates: announcement in October 2009, session in January 2010
- Two **Neighborhood College Programs** for Braddock District:
 - o Teaches local communities how county government works
 - o Success of the Kings Park revitalization included the Neighborhood College Program

Braddock District Picnic Summary:

- **Great Success again** this year. Between **120 and 150 people** attended.
- Cost of picnic and awards = \$1,200 from BDC funds.
- **Thanks to all the volunteers**, the picnic ran perfectly.
- Summary of tasks and minor recommendations for next year have been documented.

Beautification of Braddock Road:

- **Lack of grass cutting by VDOT caused lengthy and lively discussion.**
- BDC discourages volunteers from mowing/trimming in dangerous median of Braddock Road.
- VDOT has limited funding. One additional cutting is expected, possibly in October.
- Many suggestions offered. **A small BDC group will frame the issue and propose actions.**

Educating Our Community:

- Vice Chair presented list of topics for **February 9th Braddock Information Forum**
- General Consensus: **Topics of Interest generate involvement in BDC activities**
- List of topics Proposed:
 - Invasive species elimination
 - Future of Parks and Lakes in our community,
 - County volunteer programs; participation within District and State
 - Non-standard education programs for home schoolers, Fairfax Adult Ed, non-credit class
 - Civic association awareness, common activities, and volunteerism
 - Litter pickup, Adopt-A-Highway
 - Neighborhood Watch programs – starting, maintaining, coordination with Fairfax
 - Incidents and responses to petty crimes and misdemeanor activity
 - Community pool issues
 - Types of Internet and telephone service to homes, neighborhoods; vendor services
 - Technology programs about computer trends and issues
 - Identity Theft
 - HOA issues with the July 2009 Legislation
 - Website Development and Maintenance
 - Anticipating Change in the Future (personal contact, collaboration, etc)
 - George Mason University relationships (to draw on existing expertise)
 - Transportation Security

- Smaller Group needed to Focus Like Topics & Propose Alternative Choices for Attendees
- Task for All: **Come to Next Meeting Ready to Select Topics for Information Forum**

Open Membership Discussion Items:

- **Oak Hill Civic Assn (Jan Hedetniemi): 2nd Annual Oak Hill Mansion Work Day, Saturday, September 26th, 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.** to help prepare the **Oak Hill Mansion for Braddock History Day on October 3rd.** Community service credit is available for high school students who participate. Refreshments will be available.
- **Kings Park West Civic Assn: Royal Lake Park playground fund raising.** Goal: \$30,000. Progress to date: \$10,000 donated from family who lost child; \$10,000 matched from Fairfax County Park Foundation; \$10,000 being raised within community – over \$2,500 currently with contributions and fund raisers like Tickets from Remodel Homes Tour within Kings Park West. May request support from BDC later.
- **Kings Park West Civic Assn:** Safety and parking issues being worked by 4 associations bordering Roberts Road & Tapestry Drive intersection. Intersection is legal but not safe. Supervisor Cook's office and Delegates have been involved to assist in resolving issues.
- **Kings Park West Civic Assn:** One Swimming Pool has closed, but the last officers cannot shed responsibility until properties are disposed. However, Fairfax County Park Authority will not accept the 9 acres until structures are removed. Fund raising is required to complete task and the goal is to use Fairfax County Park Foundation as conduit for fund raising.
- **Kings Park West Civic Assn:** Neighborhood Watch program offered for Information Forum. KPWCA has a 200-volunteer program with street walking and car patrols. One member has become expert in Gang Tagging issues.
- **Lake Braddock HOA:** Silt is clogging lake again. Dredging task is being worked.
- **Fairfax County:** Green Fairfax Series presentation on October 13th at Government Center.
- **NEXT BDC MEETING: Tuesday, October 13th, at 7:30 PM in Braddock Hall**

Submitted by
Bruce Wallachy
BDC Secretary