

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board

Luxmanor Citizen's Association

Monday, November 2, 2015

WELCOMING AND OPENING REMARKS: Abbe introduced the LCA Board Members and welcomed 43 residents and guests.

REVIEW OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES: The October minutes were approved with the addition of Carin's numbers for the GreenSheet expenses.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Barry said that in September we had an income of \$124.00 and our expenses totaled \$473.00. He also said that several more checks have come in and have to be tallied. LCA has approximately \$20,000.00-21,000.00 in the checking account and roughly \$60,000.00 in the Money Market Account.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION: Lisbeth announced the launch of the LuxLine beginning on November 10. She also explained the difference between the Greensheet, LuxLine and the ListServ and explained that the ListServ will become more robust with less spam. The LuxLine will be a monthly newsletter with information about the community and will allow businesses to advertise for a cost.

SCHOOLS AND COLOCATION: Abbe introduced the invited speakers – Patricia O'Neill, President, Montgomery County Board of Education, Bruce Crispell, Director, Division of Long-Range Planning and Seth Adams, MCPS Department of Construction.

President O'Neill:

- Acknowledged that there are many issues that the community wanted to address with emphasis on the Walter Johnson cluster in general;
- Introduced Bruce Crispell, Director of MCPS Facilities Planning and Seth Adams from the MCPS Department of Construction who, she said, could provide "details";
- Distributed copies of the latest enrollment pages from the interim Superintendent's full Capital Improvement Program (as of Sept 30) budget which will be voted on later this year;
- Said that the total school budget is \$1.17 billion dollars -- an increase of \$172 million dollars which is needed because of the "incredible growth in the county";
- Noted that since 2007 the school population has grown by 18,700 students which is the equivalent of needing 25 new elementary schools but that the Board neither has the land nor the money to do this;
- Gave a rundown of school projection enrollments; and
- Said that the Board is fiscally dependent on the County Council for the MCPS budget.

Ms. O'Neill spoke about establishing a Round Table for the Walter Johnson cluster because the Board is aware that this student body will continue to grow, especially with all the new development in the area. She said that the MCPS interim Superintendent felt that in light of the new master plans (new residential development approved for White Flint I and II as well as the proposed residential development for the Rock Spring Plan) that a Round Table discussion was best to dialogue with the community representatives about the high school size, etc. and the way that Woodward HS might be used to take the enrollment pressure off Walter Johnson HS.

Bruce Crispell said that Walter Johnson's student enrollment is currently 2290, is expected to be 2865 in 2021, and in ten-fifteen years is projected at 3000-3100. Most of the growth, he said, has been from the turnover in older neighborhoods, immigration of new residents, and new development in the WF sector plan. He said that the Round Table would be a discussion of approaches rather than a "boundary" study issue and the Round Table discussion group would include Cluster Coordinators and K-12 cluster school's PTA representatives. He emphasized that meetings are always open to the public and he urged that interested participants work with each of the public school's PTA representatives to the Round Table panel. Notices of the meetings, he said, will be sent out to local community associations registered with the Park and Planning Commission and will also be posted online on the MCPS website. The scheduling of Round Table discussions will begin in spring, 2016.

Inclusion of the LCA at the Round Table was rejected due to MCPS' policy that homeowners or civic associations are never seated because "the primary stake holders" are the PTA parents' representatives and, also, it would be "too unwieldy" and "non-productive." He said that citizens "always have an avenue of participation" and can offer a position paper or write a letter to the Board about concerns.

Seth Adams spoke of allaying concerns about traffic patterns and infrastructures in the neighborhood and said that all input from the community is done during the feasibility studies and including "what's important to the neighborhood", i.e., green spaces, road-widening, driveways, parking, traffic, sidewalks, and the inconvenience to the neighbors. He said that his agency tries to work out solutions equitable to the demands. He also said that numerous county and state agencies will be involved at this stage of the project and will study environmental issues – water run-off, water management systems, electric infrastructure, etc.

Assurances were given that comparative equity--the same general level of facilities- will be given to the colocated Tilden Middle School students as compared to other middle schools pupils in the county.

Other information given by Ms. O'Neill:

- Woodward was being used as a holding school but that it also might be used to deal with the overflow of Walter Johnson boundaries;

- She firmly believes that the Woodward site must be preserved as a high school site;
- She would not be willing to reconsider the Woodward site for the site of the co-located Rock Terrace Tilden Middle School; and
- Had she been in attendance at the MCPS Board meeting, she would have voted in favor of collocating Rock Terrace School with Tilden Middle School.

WELCOME/SOCIAL: Nurit gave a Halloween wrap-up and said that the event was well-attended. Cost of the event was \$500.00 and costs came in under budget.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 PM.