

WILLIAMSBURG CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION
JANUARY 11, 2011

The Williamsburg Civic Association met at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Nottingham Elementary School on Tuesday, January 11, 2011. A copy of the agenda is attached.

President Sonia McCormick called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. She announced that the offices of Vice President and Secretary are currently vacant, and she asked that anyone interested in serving in either of these positions contact her.

Snow Brigade Information

Ellen Jones explained the county's new snow removal ordinance, which requires homeowners to remove snow and ice from the public sidewalks in front of their homes. She distributed a fact sheet about the new ordinance and recruited volunteers to shovel snow for residents in our civic association who are not physically able to do it themselves.

Bishop O'Connell Athletic Fields & Lighting

Kathleen Prebble, President of Bishop O'Connell High School, presented an update on their proposal to renovate the school's athletic fields and install lights so the fields can be used at night. She reported that a working group with representatives from O'Connell School, the Williamsburg and Arlington-East Falls Church Civic Associations, and the county met six times but could not reach a consensus on how to address neighborhood concerns. In the meantime, the County Board has deferred action on O'Connell's Special Use Permit application until March. (For details about O'Connell's proposed project, see the attached excerpt from the Association's January 2011, newsletter.) After her presentation, Ms. Prebble and two others presenting O'Connell School answered questions about the project and then left the meeting.

Bill Adair, representing our Association on the O'Connell School working group, summarized the concerns of O'Connell neighbors and reported that a petition opposing the installation of lights on the playing field was being circulated. John Seymour, also representing our Association on the working group, reported that in addition to O'Connell and Marymount, the county also plans to use the fields for county leagues. Ruth Shearer, another Association representative on the working group, discussed neighbors' concerns about increased traffic and parking. (See the attached summary of neighborhood concerns which appeared in the Association's January 2011, newsletter.) After their presentations, Mr. Adair, Mr. Seymour and Ms. Shearer answered questions about neighborhood concerns.

Vote on Resolution of Opposition

President McCormick asked those present if the civic association should take an official position on the O'Connell project. There was a motion by Ellen Jones (copy attached) that the County Board be asked to defer a decision on O'Connell School's use permit application until further studies have been completed. After some discussion, the amended motion was tabled. There was a motion by Jenny Menna (copy attached) that the Association send a letter to the

County Board opposing the installation of lights on O’Connell School’s athletic fields. After some discussion, a friendly amendment was accepted by Ms. Menna to include the use permit application number in the motion. The amended motion passed on a vote of 57 in favor and 2 opposed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Ann Lunson
Acting Secretary