

Tulip Hill Citizens Association
Fall Meeting – Sunday, November 18, 2007
Minutes

The fall meeting of the Tulip Hill Citizens Association took place at the home of Nancy and Mark Gross on November 18, 2007. Michael Burack, THCA President, called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Michael began by thanking Nancy and Mark for hosting the meeting, and thanked Nancy for once again organizing the recent neighborhood Halloween party. (Thanks also to Toni Grayson, who shuttled her front-porch scarecrow to the Halloween party to add to the decorations; to Lynn Kletzkina, who assisted in; to the middle school students from the neighborhood who helped out; and to the ever-able Cate Bergeson.)

President's Report

1. THCA Finances. Michael reported that the new THCA treasurer, Jos Verbeek, is doing an excellent job of straightening out the Association's financial records. Because Jos was unable to attend the meeting, Michael gave a brief report on the state of THCA's finances. THCA currently has approximately \$2800 in its bank account. Michael added that there will shortly be an additional expenditure of approximately \$500 upon receipt of the bill from the contractor who did the clean-up at the curve on Bent Branch Road near the Massachusetts Avenue entrance

Michael reminded the attendees of the changeover in the billing year for THCA dues, from a fiscal year, running from October 1 to September 30, to a calendar year basis, beginning on January 1, 2008. Neighbors will receive a reminder in January for the 2008 dues, prompt payment of which will be greatly appreciated. In response to a question, Michael stated that 2008 dues will continue to be \$50 and will not contain an additional pro-rated sum to compensate for the October 1-December 31 transition period from the old to the new fiscal year.

2. Landscaping. Michael reported on the completion of the Massachusetts Avenue renovation project, which included the placement of new trees and smaller plantings by the State Highway Administration at the Massachusetts Avenue entrance. The new plantings all have a one-year guarantee from the SHA's contractor. The THCA landscaping committee, guided by Rasma Plato (who is currently studying landscape architecture), consulted with the SHA on the selection and placing of the new plantings, both to improve the esthetics and also to enhance visibility for drivers approaching Massachusetts Avenue on Bent Branch; the original SHA planting design would have significantly blocked the view for cars trying to enter Mass Ave.

Michael reported that Rasma also planned, organized and implemented the first Tulip Hill Planting Day. She devised a planting plan for the Mass Ave entrance area as it curves up into the neighborhood, and on November 3 she and other THCA neighbors (including Rasma's family) did the planting. If all goes well, in the spring we will see

variety of native species plants blooming in succession. Many thanks to Rasma and the other neighbors who helped out on this project.

Michael also reported that the SHA's Mass Ave renovation project that includes a new painted crosswalk at the THCA Mass Ave entrance, which drivers seem to be modestly observing when pedestrians are present. Discussion ensued about possibly replacing the green and white "Tulip Hill" entrance sign. Michael said he had stored the sign in his garage to prevent damage during the road construction. Michael inquired about whether neighbors were interested in upgrading to a more impressive sign, perhaps one made of stone. Alan Weinberger expressed strong support for upgrading our neighborhood identity by a more impressive sign. Alan offered to chair a committee to explore cost and design issues, and a committee was duly appointed.

3. Spring Meeting. Michael said he is inclined to hold the next spring meeting of the THCA at Glen Echo Park. The last spring meeting was held there in the Cuddle Up on May 19, 2007. A question was raised about the cost of holding the meeting at Glen Echo as opposed to the cost of renting tables and chairs for past meetings that had been held in the neighborhood. Michael said the rental cost for the Cuddle Up was \$200, including tables and seating, which was about the same as what it cost to hold the meeting in the neighborhood, and that he prefers to continue to hold spring meetings at Glen Echo Park to take advantage of this wonderful resource so close to us. The upcoming spring meeting will likely take place in May again (rather than June, as in some past years) in an attempt to avoid so many scheduling conflicts with end-of year events running on a school calendar.

New Business

Michael asked if there were any other matters for discussion.

A question was raised about who receives the neighborhood Directory. Michael said that the circulation of the Directory was discussed at the spring meeting, and as a result of that discussion the Directory is now distributed to all neighbors, regardless of their THCA dues status. .

Mary Ann Stein raised the subject of another valuable resource close to us – the Potomac River – and emphasized the important work of the Potomac Conservancy in preserving and protecting the river. Mary Ann encouraged us all to take a look at their work via their website and enjoy the many bounties of the Potomac River Valley.

Nancy Gross noted that while many neighbors are putting clear plastic containers (such as those used for lettuce or takeout food) in their recycling bins, Montgomery County only accepts plastic items that have a clear and discernable neck (no yogurt containers either). Nancy said that the County no longer adheres to a system based on the number on the bottom of a plastic container and that the County has a very informative website on which recycling information can be found under the Department of Public Works,

Solid Waste Services section. Michael added that on the website it is possible to sign up to receive a notice of holiday changes in the solid waste collection schedule.

Speakers

There being no more new business, Michael turned the meeting over to the evening's speakers, our neighbors Quent and Jackie Aanenson. They gave a moving account of their involvement in the recent unforgettable Ken Burns series "The War," in which they were featured and which was based in part on their experiences during World War II. There were many questions and much discussion during and after their presentation, and all the neighbors present

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made, seconded and approved, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy M. Gross
Secretary pro tem