

Tulip Hill Citizens Association
Spring Meeting – Saturday, May 17, 2008
Minutes

Michael Burack, President of THCA, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Michael began by thanking Toni Grayson for organizing the logistics of the meeting. He also mentioned that the minutes of the fall meeting have been posted on the THCA web site. He then proceeded to the business of the meeting.

1. **Treasurer's Report.** Because THCA Treasurer Jos Verbeek was unable to attend the meeting, Michael gave a brief report. He reported that the state of the treasury was good, there the balance was approximately \$3,000, and that the dues drive using preaddressed prestamped envelopes appeared to be quite successful. Expenditures from the treasury so far this year have mostly been for landscaping, including the non-recurring expense of fixing the entrance area on Massachusetts Avenue dug up by the State Highway Administration (SHA). He reported that there would be some additional expenses to put in plantings and to maintain the area.

At this point, a question was asked about the Tulip Hill sign that had previously stood at the Massachusetts Avenue entrance. Michael reported that he had removed and stored the sign during the construction. There had been discussion at the fall meeting about a more permanent sign at the entrance, but the committee appointed to investigate this improvement determined that permits would be required from the county to put in a stonework sign and that this would be both time-consuming and quite expensive. The SHA engineer who supervised the construction told Michael that the old sign could be replaced without the need for a permit, and Michael is having the sign refurbished and repainted. He expects that the sign will be replaced later this year.

2. **Reports from Standing Committees.**

Directory. Cate Bergesen reported that the new directory has been printed in a bright, easy-to-locate color and that all Tulip Hill residents are entitled to receive a copy regardless of dues status. Cate asked all families to check off their names once they had picked up a copy so that the remainder could be delivered. She reported that the page listing job services the neighborhood teenagers can provided has been reinstated. The total printing bill was \$211.

Landscaping. Rasma Plato, the head of the landscaping committee, reported that on November 3, eleven volunteers worked for two hours to plant and weed the Massachusetts Avenue entrance. All-native plantings have been put in, although the plantings so far are somewhat sparse because of budget limitations. On April 19, in observance of Earth Day, eight volunteers spent two hours cleaning up the Massachusetts Avenue gully; they collected three car-loads of trash and weeds, all of which was picked up on the next trash day. Rasma has a native plant book for those neighbors interested in the native plantings. Toni Grayson thanked Rasma for her efforts, and all present heartily concurred.

3. New Business.

The following items of new business were discussed:

- Michael stated that the changes to the bylaws that had been discussed at the previous meeting – to change the 12-month dues year to a calendar-year basis, and to clarify that all households of Tulip Hill belong to the Association regardless of dues status – had been circulated with the notice for the spring meeting. A motion to approve the amendments to the bylaws in the form circulated was made, seconded, and the changes were approved unanimously.
- Cate Bergesen, in her capacity as the nominating committee, announced the slate of proposed officers for the next two years -- Michael Burack as President, Toni Grayson as Vice President, Christine Enemark as Secretary, Liza Aronie as the new Treasurer. A motion to elect the slate was made, seconded, and the slate of new officers was adopted unanimously.
- Michael briefly described emails he had circulated describing recent break-ins in the Bethesda-Potomac area. He noted that he had mentioned the possibility of hiring a private security service for the neighborhood, but that it is expensive and that he understands that other neighborhoods have been unhappy with their service (Kenwood) and that other neighborhoods had decided against hiring one (Somerset). There was general discussion about various security issues. One suggestion was to call or write to the local police to ask that they step up security patrols through the neighborhood; Michael agreed that police cars are not seen in the neighborhood and agreed to call, and suggested that others might want to write. Another suggestion was made to establish a neighborhood watch and to post signs, which requires that a neighborhood take specific measures to watch over their own neighborhood. A committee was appointed to investigate further the possibility of creating a neighborhood watch system in Tulip Hill. Another suggestion was made that there should be a central place to call if you are out walking with your dog and notice something amiss, and Michael suggested using the website or the email list to notify the neighborhood. Another suggestion was to organize a personalized security briefing for the neighborhood.
- Michael reported Ann Lister has been the webmaster for the THCA website and thanked her for her work. He said that Ann would like to pass on the responsibility, and Michael called for volunteers to take over from Ann.
- Michael called for volunteers to host the fall meeting in mid-November.
- Howard Solomon stated that he had brought environmental materials for everyone, including the latest recycling guidelines from Montgomery County, a yard trim sign and schedules for Ride-On Bus #29.
- Dean Kueter urged neighbors to sign up to serve as election judge, noting that there is a particular shortage of Republican and Independent election judges in the county.

The meeting was concluded at 1:40 p.m.

Christine Enemark, Secretary