

**Stratford Landing Citizens Association Annual Meeting
October 27, 2007 and November 13, 2007**

The SLCA held its Annual Meeting at Stratford Landing Elementary School on Saturday, October 27, 2007 and because of inclement weather and other factors, continued the meeting on Tuesday, Nov 13, 2007.

The 10/27 part of the Meeting began with check-in at 4:00 pm, which would have followed the 2 pm – 4 pm Halloween parade and festival at Stratford Landing Park, which had to be cancelled because of heavy rain. We had our annual candidates night and speakers present were Gerry Hyland, County Supervisor, Mount Vernon District, Virginia State Senator Toddy Puller, and Virginia Delegate Kris Amundson. After the candidates spoke there was a question and answer period for approximately one hour.

Tom Burgess, President called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. Other officers present were Celia Boertlein, Jane Earley, Alan Rubinstein, Melissa Cramer, Jack Shawn, Mary Lou Hoffman, Beth Bates, Tara Quadman, Ed Gonsalves and Linda Sweeney. Tom reported this meeting was scheduled to coincide with the parade and festival hoping to increase our attendance at our annual meeting. Information regarding the annual meeting was published in the August and October newsletters. After the newsletter was published, it was brought to the EC's attention by Melissa Cramer, Parliamentarian, that holding the meeting on a Saturday did not conform to by-laws because they read that the meeting should take place on a weekday evening. So, the EC agreed to hold the meeting on Saturday and continue and reconvene the meeting on Tuesday evening, November 13, 2007 at Walt Whitman School at 7:30 pm, for anyone who was unable to attend the Saturday meeting could come and cast their votes on 11/13th. The entire community was notified by leaflet about the Nov. 13 Annual Meeting Continuation. Vote tabulations taken on Saturday night would be combined with votes cast on Tuesday night. This way everyone in the community will have an opportunity to vote. As of 10/27/07, we had 594 members in good standing so we need 10% of the members voting in person or by proxy, but we also need to have at least 8% (48) of the members present at the meeting to establish a quorum. We had 59 members present and 29 proxies at this meeting so we had a quorum and the meeting proceeded.

Jane Earley, Vice-President reported on the SLCA 2007 Membership Questionnaire. We will continue to collect surveys through the end of October. Many members have responded voicing their opinions on some of the following topics: Public safety, Bike safety, Health Services, Sidewalks, Community sponsored address painting, Cell phone reception, Need more interactive Web Site and Community Activities. At the 11/13 continuation meeting Jane again planned to make this presentation.

The next order of business was the vote on the stop signs at Camden Street & Cavendish Drive. In June, the executive committee asked all members to participate in this vote and the voting materials and procedures were approved by the County Supervisor's staff and included their suggestions and input. Members were given nine weeks, from June 8

through August 15, to cast their votes. All block captains were asked to collect and countersign the ballots. Three members of the executive committee and a member of our community in good standing for 30 plus years counted the votes. After the ballots were tallied and turned into Supervisor Hyland's office, two SLCA members, Jay Spiegel and Richard Edgerton, complained to Hyland suggesting that the poll did not follow SLCA bylaws on referendum. The SLCA followed the Fairfax County R-TAP procedures that were reviewed by and coordinated with Gerry Hyland and his staff before the vote was taken. However, an assistant county attorney agreed with the two complainants. As a result, the vote taken this summer was invalidated. This vote is brought to the membership again at the annual meeting and pro and con arguments were presented in the October Newsletter.

Vote #1: Do you support a four-way stop, to replace a two-way stop, at the intersection of Camden Street and Cavendish Drive?

Discussion: Two members passed out some literature to all members present. Some comments from those opposed were made regarding state the intersection was safe. Those opposed occupied half of the debate time allotment, and those in support occupied the rest of the time. Discussion time had been scheduled for 10 minutes by the Chair, but was extended to 16 minutes. Some members felt it was unsafe and others felt it was safe just the way it is. It has been this way since the community was built. George Puccia and Josh Cramer strongly disagreed with those opposed to the 4-way stop and Mr. Puccia said he feared for his grandchildren's safety when they use it. George Puccia and several other members arose and spoke in favor of the position taken by the Fairfax County Police, which favored the 4-way stop. Also Mr. Edgerton, who opposed, said that no school children crossed Cavendish Street and it was later determined the he may have contacted the wrong school. (Later it was determined from residents at the intersection that this year 15-16 children cross at Cavendish during the AM rush hour. Several mothers at the meeting said it varies based on how many Fort Hunt kids sign up for special classes at Stratford and vice versa and based on children graduation out of elementary school. The vote was taken on this question. The partial results of the vote were: In Favor, 74 and Opposed, 10. (NOTE: Continuation Meeting additional votes to be added below.)

Vote #2: The 2008 Budget (An Appeal from a Ruling from the Chair)

Celia Boertlein, Treasurer gave the financial report. As of September 30, 2007 our balance on hand is \$10,667.71. Arlene Fay audited our books for fiscal year 2007 and found no errors or discrepancies in the account. The recording and accounting methods are adequate and appropriate and provide a true picture of the SLCA's financial condition. A list of the year's expenditures is attached along with a copy of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2008. Celia reviewed the proposed budget for fiscal year 2008. At the meeting, there were questions about fees for signs for advertising events and the cost of some of the community activities. There was one question on the D&O insurance that was approved by the membership and was included in the proposed 2007 budget as a bill to be paid. The same Member, Jane Warfle, moved to strike the \$1000 deductible that was billed to the SLCA under it's contract with Arch Insurance Company. The deductible

resulted when Arch triggered coverage after Jay Spiegel first threatened and then sued President Burgess earlier this year. The company provided the coverage to the SLCA President followed an Arch Insurance Company's extensive review of Mr. Spiegel's threat and subsequent suit. Coverage under this contract can only be provided to executive committee members for actions taken in the course of their official duties and not as private citizens. A motion was made to strike the \$1000 from the budget. The motion was ruled out of order by the Chair because this is an accounts payable item from the budget and not a 2008 proposed expenditure. The Chair noted that it was not possible to strike budget items for costs or invoice incurred under a contract or the SLCA would risk being in default and in breach of contract. Nevertheless, Frank Corley appealed the Chair's ruling on the motion to remove an accounts payable item from the budget report. A vote was taken. The partial results were: In Favor, 6 and Opposed, 82, the appeal that would have potentially struck down payment of the \$1000 deductible failed and the deductible was subsequently paid in due course in accordance with the contract.

Vote 3: SLCA Annual Budget for fiscal year 2008. There was no further discussion on the budget. The vote was taken and the partial results were: In Favor, 76 and Opposed, 4. The proposed budget for 2008 stands pending the continuation votes.

Vote 4: Candidates for SLCA executive committee (nomination from the floor).

According to our by-laws any member in good standing who desires to serve on the Executive Committee may have his/her name placed on the ballot by delivering written notification not later than September 15th. Don Griffin, a member of the executive committee, had announced that he was running for president in mid-August. However, On September 17th he told the committee he would not be able to run. That same day, Melissa Cramer announced her intention to run for president. According to our by-laws, she must be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting. Mary Lou Hoffman made a motion to nominate Melissa Cramer for president. The motion was seconded. At this time Tom Burgess, President asked if there were any other nominations from the floor for president. There were no other nominations. The vote was taken to add Melissa Cramer's name to the slate of officers. The partial results were: In Favor, 69, Opposed, 0.

Vote 5: Candidates for SLCA executive committee. The next order of business was the election of board members. Tom Burgess, President asked for nominations from the floor to add to the published list of candidates. There were no additional nominations. The president asked for a motion to elect the Board members by acclamation. It was so moved and seconded. **The motion passed by acclamation.** The following members were elected pending the inclusion of the continuation meeting vote:

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| Melissa Cramer | President |
| Charles Herrmann | Vice-President |
| Linda Sweeney | Secretary |
| Celia Boertlein | Treasurer |
| Ken Pribyla | Transportation/Community Improvements |
| Mary Lou Hoffman | Membership |
| Ed Gonsalves | Rules/Parliamentarian |

Beth Bates Recreation (co-chair)
Tara Quaadman Recreation (co-chair)

Vote 6: Motion of Commendation

Finally, Member Betsy Martin offered the following motion,

"I Move to commend the Executive Committee and its chair for its efforts to foster community spirit and to introduce civility to our community discourse."

The motion was passed by acclamation.

The annual meeting was suspended at approximately 9:30 pm and will reconvene at 7:30 pm on November 13, 2007 at Whitman Middle School.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Sweeney

**The Continuation of the
Stratford Landing Citizens Association Annual Meeting
November 13, 2007**

The SLCA re-convened its Annual Meeting at Walt Whitman School on Tuesday, November 13, 2007. The check-in for the meeting started at 7:30 pm. Members in good standing, who did not vote in person or who did not send their proxy in with another member on Saturday October 27th, may cast their vote on issues and any motions brought at the Saturday meeting. Vote tabulations taken on Saturday night would be combined with votes cast on Tuesday night. This way everyone in the community will have an opportunity to vote. We had 25 members sign in with an additional 18 proxies. We had a total of 49 members present at this meeting.

Tom Burgess, President called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. Other officers present were Celia Boertlein, Jane Earley, Alan Rubinstein, Melissa Cramer, Jack Shawn, Mary Lou Hoffman, Beth Bates, Ed Gonsalves, Charles Herrmann, candidate Chad Coneway, candidate Ken Pribyla, and Linda Sweeney. We have a few guests who would like to speak to our membership. The speakers present were Christine Rupprecht, who spoke about her effort to make holiday baskets for the families of Army amputees at Walter Reed, where she works.

Christine is a pain management nurse for the ward at Walter Reed Hospital that houses 15-20 service members who are all amputees and in pretty bad states of mind. We asked Christine what our community could do to help. Christine said the best thing we could do to help would be to help the families of these young heroes. The family members who are there every day stay at the Fisher House, next to Walter Reed, because they cannot afford to stay anywhere else near the hospital. These devoted family members who are by the bedside daily are far from home and under a great deal of stress. If we could put together gift baskets for each of the families it would mean so much to them and to these veterans.

Then Tom introduced Brett Kenny from Gerry Hyland's office. Gerry was planning to attend our meeting but had to go out of town. Brett talked about the expansion at Ft. Belvoir and the effect it will have on our roads, schools and medical facilities. He discussed a mixed-use town center at the site of the old Chuck E Cheese on Route 1 & Kings Highway. There will be hearings in January/February of 2008 regarding this project. There was a brief question and answer period.

Tom then introduced Kae Wells from Ryegate Lane. Kae is affiliated with a new start-up non-profit concierge service for senior citizens, Mount Vernon at Home. The new group's purpose is to help aging homeowners stay in their homes. The concept is modeled after Beacon Hill Village, which was formed several years ago in the Boston area. To get more information go to www.BeaconHillVillage.org. Mount Vernon at Home is a non-profit organization assisting seniors with information on all types of services.

Jane Earley, Vice-President reported on the SLCA 2007 Membership Questionnaire. We are continuing to collect surveys so if anyone would like to participate we have forms available. Many members have responded voicing their opinions on some of the following topics: Public safety, Bike safety, Health Services, Sidewalks, Community sponsored address painting, Cell phone reception, Interactive web site, Community activities and Block parties. A few other items of interest are: Bus service closer to the community and an Emergency preparedness plan. Most of our members thought the neighborhood is a good place to raise children.

The next order of business was the vote on the stop signs at Camden Street & Cavendish Drive. In June the executive committee asked all members to participate in this vote. Members were given nine weeks, from June 8 through August 15, to cast their votes. All block captains were asked to collect and countersign the ballots. Three members of the executive committee and a member of our community in good standing for 30 plus years counted the votes. After the ballots were tallied and turned into Supervisor Hyland's office, two SLCA members complained to Hyland suggesting that the poll did not follow SLCA bylaws on referendum. The SLCA followed the Fairfax County R-TAP procedures that were reviewed by and coordinated with Gerry Hyland and his staff before the vote was taken. However, an assistant county attorney agreed with the two complainants. As a result, the vote taken this summer has been invalidated because the June newsletter did not contain arguments against this initiative. This vote is brought to the membership again at the annual meeting.

Vote 1 -- 4-Way Stop (continuation votes and Totals)

Do you support a four-way stop, to replace a two-way stop, at the intersection of Camden Street & Cavendish Drive? At this time one of the opponents spoke against the stop signs reminding us that there was a vote taken on this issue back in 2001 and at that time opposed the four-way stop signs. This intersection has been this way since the community was built, said Steve Chaconis, who then spent several minutes discussing his time during Middle School at Walt Whitman. His discussion of his childhood continued until his discussion was ruled off the topic and out of order. Some comments were made regarding the safety at this intersection. Some members felt it was unsafe and others felt it was safe just the way it is. George Puccia and several other members arose and spoke in favor of the position taken by the Fairfax County Police, which favored the 4-way stop. The vote was taken on this question: The results were: In Favor, 20 and Opposed, 10. The four-way stop at the intersection of Camden Street and Cavendish Drive was approved. **The combined vote on this issue was: In Favor, 94 and Opposed 20. or 82.4% in favor.**

Vote 2 -- Appeal to a Chair's Ruling (continuation votes and Totals)

Next, we accepted the votes on the Frank Corley Appeal of an out-of-order ruling from the Chair on a motion to remove an accounts payable item from the budget report. A vote was taken on this appeal. The results were: In Favor, 2 and Opposed, 21. **The combined votes on the appeal were: In Favor, 8 and Opposed, 103 or 92.7% opposed.**

Therefore, the appeal failed and the \$1000 deductible will not be removed from the budget and was paid in due course in accordance with the contract.

Vote 3 The 2008 Budget (continuation votes and Totals)

Celia Boertlein, Treasurer gave the financial report. As of September 30, 2007 our balance on hand is \$10,667.71. Arlene Fay audited our books for fiscal year 2007 and found no errors or discrepancies in the account. The recording and accounting methods are adequate and appropriate and provide a true picture of the SLCA's financial condition. A list of the year's expenditures is attached along with a copy of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2008. Celia reviewed the proposed budget for fiscal 2008. At the meeting, there were questions about fees for signs for advertising events and the cost of some of the community activities. There were questions on the D&O insurance that was approved by the membership and was included in the proposed 2007 budget. There was no further discussion on the budget. The vote was taken and the results were: In Favor, 24 and Opposed, 0. **The combined votes on the budget were: In Favor, 100, Opposed, 4, or 96% in favor of the proposed budget for 2008 was approved by the membership.**

Vote 4: Candidates for SLCA executive committee (Nomination from the Floor). (continuation votes and Totals)

According to our by-laws any member in good standing who desires to serve on the Executive committee may have his/her name placed on the ballot by delivering written notification not later than September 15th. Don Griffin, a member of the executive committee, had announced that he was running for president in mid-August. However, On September 17th he told the committee he would not run. That same day, Melissa Cramer announced her intention to run for president. According to our by-laws she must be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting. Mary Lou Hoffman made a motion to nominate Melissa Cramer for president. The motion was seconded. At this time Tom Burgess, President asked if there were any other nominations for president. There were no other nominations. The vote was taken to add Melissa Cramer's name to the slate of officers. The results were: In Favor, 22 and Opposed, 0. **The combined votes were: In Favor, 91 and Opposed, 0.**

Vote 5: Candidates for SLCA executive committee. (continuation votes and Totals)

The next order of business was the election of board members. Tom Burgess, President asked for nominations from the floor to add to the published list of candidates. There were no additional nominations. The president asked for a motion to elect the Board members by acclamation. It was so moved and seconded. **The motion passed by acclamation.** The following members were elected:

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| Melissa Cramer | President |
| Charles Herrmann | Vice-President |
| Linda Sweeney | Secretary |

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| Celia Boertlein | Treasurer |
| Ken Pribyla | Transportation/Community Improvements |
| Mary Lou Hoffman | Membership |
| Ed Gonsalves | Rules/Parliamentarian |
| Beth Bates | Recreation (co-chair) |
| Tara Quaadman | Recreation (co-chair) |

The annual meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Sweeney