

Mason Neck Citizens Association Monthly Board Meeting
January 3, 2024, at Cranford Methodist Church

Attendees

<i>MNCA Officers</i>		<i>Other Members of the Board of Directors</i>	
President	Nancy Wilochka	Peter Weyland	
Vice President	Marvin Miller	Scott Stroh	
Secretary	Jim Martin	Rick Hutson	
Treasurer	Bruce Scott	Arsenio Ayon	

President Nancy Wilochka called the meeting to order at 7:33 and presented the agenda. The following were discussed:

Minutes from October and November Meetings: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the October and November 2023 Board meeting minutes. Jim noted that MNCA had received a letter from a Mason Neck resident enclosing a contribution of \$200.

Treasurer Report: Bruce reported that, including the just-received \$200 donation, MNCA has \$3946.65 in its account, with outstanding payments due to Jim and Hillary for candidates' night expenditures.

BLM/Meadowood Parking Lot: Nancy referenced a good "Mount Vernon On the Move" (MVOTM) article on the state of play with this issue. Jim passed to Marvin several legal documents received in the mail from BLM and the Department of Interior concerning the MNCA's appeal of the BLM decision to proceed with the large, paved parking lot. A November 27 document denies the MNCA's appeal for a stay of the decision to proceed, and a December 7 document is a motion to dismiss MNCA's appeal. Marvin thinks there are problems with the BLM's contentions, particularly that it is not clear BLM ever consulted with anyone in the Fairfax County government and the documents do not adequately address MNCA concerns about impact on the watershed. Nancy noted that the MVOTM article quoted BLM saying it would use Fairfax County best practices.

Gunston Rd. Fire Station: Nancy called attention to another MVOTM article about plans for the new fire station. The plan is still to site the new station next to the existing station, which will be torn down. There are unanswered questions about whether/where the existing crosswalk, Boy Scout trail, and stormwater retention pond will be relocated, as the new station site will block all three.

Internal Audit: Nancy noted this is still on our "to-Do" list. Attendees agreed Hillary had said she would take the lead on it.

Digitization of MNCA Files: Nancy noted that Peter had set up a GoogleDocs folder and put several documents in it, but there are many more historical documents that could be digitized. You can scan documents for free at Fairfax County libraries. Dick may have many in his files from his many years as MNCA Secretary.

Gunston Rd. Multi-Use Trail: Nancy asked whether anyone had heard anything more about this following the Board's submission of a letter supporting Fairfax County's request for federal funding for the trail. Peter agreed to check with his sources. Jim noted that Mount Vernon Supervisor Storck had told him at an event that he would like to see the path completed, but paths along Fort Hunt Rd and Newington Rd. are the County's first priorities.

Updates to Accomplishments List: Hillary provided the most recent version; Nancy suggested that Board members review and provide input.

Annual Meeting/Additional Membership Meeting: The updated accomplishments list should be a focus of the annual meeting, to be held in May or June. Scott noted it will be important to nail down a date soon, as June is a very busy month for both his family and Gunston Hall. The Board discussed calling a separate membership meeting in the Spring, to which State Senator Surovell (now the Senate Majority Leader) and Rozia Henson, the newly elected Delegate who represents Mason Neck could be invited. The Board tentatively suggested April 23 for such a meeting. Other items for either the April or June meeting could be a discussion of the Living Shorelines issues and/or updates from Mason Neck State Park and Pohick Bay Regional Park.

Gunston Hall Updates: Gunston Hall has two capital projects in the works as part of its Master Plan and has a funding request before the state legislature for support of these projects. Gunston Hall also will play a major part in the Virginia celebrations of the United States' 250th anniversary of independence and has several other events planned. Scott offered to brief the Board in more detail at a future meeting.

Caisson Horses: The FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as passed into law preserved language favorable to our concerns, including regular briefings to the relevant congressional committees (the first on February 21) and a report on possible locations for a caisson horses' facility that is required to consider impact on local recreation access. Things still are moving in the right direction, but the Board will need to keep an eye on the issue, including checking with our contacts to see how the February 21 briefing goes.

ACTION ITEMS

- Letter for Nancy's signature thanking resident for donation: **Action: Jim**
- Review BLM/DOI legal to determine next steps: **Action: Marvin**
- Contact Fire Chief about new fire station/crosswalk/Boy Scout trail: **Action: Nancy**
- Internal Audit: Call Hillary about next steps: **Action: Nancy**
- Reach out to Dick about digitizing MNCA historical files: **Action: Jim**
- Reach out to local officials for update on multi-use trail: **Action: Peter**
- Circulate "**Brag Sheet**" of MNCA Accomplishments for Board Member Edits: **Action: Jim.**
- Determine Date/Speakers for April General Meeting: **Action: Nancy (+Marvin?)**

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 7 at Cranford Methodist Church

Motion to adjourn: Passed at 8:26.