
P I M M I T H I L L S C I T I Z E N S A S S O C I A T I O N

PRÉSIDENT: James Whytock - JL 2-0293 TREASURER: John Bazuin - JL 6-3036
VICE PRÉS: John Duggan - JE 4-7595 SECRETARY: Nan Ketherton - JL 4-2067
SEP-AT-LIB: Matthew Lonahan - JL 3-0658

AGENDA OF MEETING

Tuesday, March 1, 1955

8:00 PM

Dunn Loring Firehouse

1. Secretary's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Committee Reports
 - a) Federation Representative on Award Dinner - Mrs. McCormick
 - b) Executive Committee on Voting Registration - Mr. Duggan
 - c) Housing and Gardening on Contest - Mrs. Delisle
 - d) Roads and Signs - Mr. Snider
4. Announcements
5. Old Business
6. New Business
 - a) Fairfax County Master Plan

MEMORANDUM

Mr. Robert Secane, a member of the Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Department, addressed the February meeting on the subject of the now current campaign to raise \$6,000.00 of the purchase price of a new pumper truck for the Dunn Loring Company. He explained that the present official dividing line between the area of Dunn Loring and that of McLean is Griffith Road; however, he also explained that a wide belt on either side of this dividing line is served by both companies. A fire call in that area will bring equipment from both fire stations.

This campaign is undoubtedly as important as any that will be conducted in Pimmit Hills. Its effect is both personal and immediate. There was a time when fire companies were supported by insurance companies. At that time any insured homeowner was given a placque to exhibit on the outside of the house so that the fire company would know whether to exert itself in putting out a fire in that building. That time is past, granted, and now a fire company fights any and all fires with equal vigor. It demonstrates, however, that insurance companies have always been cognizant of the value of and need for fire departments. In fact, the insurance rates are based on the distance from a fire house and the kind of equipment to be found there.

The new truck ordered for Dunn Loring is of the most modern design based on the most recent discoveries in and theories of fire fighting. The high pressure fog spray with which this truck will be equipped has been found to be of the highest efficiency in fire control. It not only puts a fire out faster, but conserves water in doing so. Conservation of water is of particular import because it is furnished by our water company and is charged off as part of the operating expense. In this way the cost of the water used to put out a fire finds its way into your bill and mine. I can think of nothing that would make any of us happier than to cut the water required in fighting a fire.

The whole thing resolves itself to this: the best possible equipment at the nearest practical point ready to extinguish any fire in the quickest possible time at the least possible cost. In the bargain, it keeps our insurance rates down. Can anyone afford not to give something toward the purchase of this truck?

With an average donation of \$2.00 per house, Firmit Hills can contribute approximately 1/3 of the total of this initial drive. The Hills constitutes approximately 1/3 of the population of the district covered by the Dunn Loring Volunteers. It constitutes, also, the most congested and largest number of frame dwellings in the area. It is fitting that the area of greatest danger should demonstrate its willingness to carry at least its proportionate share of the cost of the protective equipment. Dig down! At least to the extent of two dollars. In doing so you will not only be upholding the honor of the Hills as a community, but you will also, in the long run, be saving yourself money.

It was duly moved, seconded and passed at the meeting that the Association donate \$100.00 to the drive. It was amusing, in a way, that almost immediately thereafter, the boys hurried over to the Hills to extinguish a fire in the new school. The fire was small and the damage negligible, but it was good to have the volunteers around right then.

Mrs. McCormick gave the meeting a very complete report on the school situation. It is now reported that the Firmit Hills School will not be opened this year. First occupancy is scheduled for September, 1955. Construction of the Lemon Road School has already been started. This early beginning date was possible because a needed building site elsewhere in the County was unavailable and the funds set aside for it were transferred to the Lemon Road School. It will be about the same as the Firmit Hills School except that there will be four more classrooms, eighteen in all. The division line between the two school districts has not yet been established. Neither has it been determined which parts of the Hills will attend the Firmit Hills School prior to the opening of the one on Lemon Road. The opening of the latter is "planned" for January, 1956.

The School Department is interested in furnishing the easiest and cheapest access to the Lemon Road School. Under state regulations all pupils within a mile radius of a school must walk. In order to shorten the distance for walking from the Hills to the school site, and to keep the kids off main roads, foot bridges were proposed across Firmit Run at Redd Road and at Hillside Drive.

This point was taken up at a meeting between the Executive Committee, Mr. G. Wallace Carper, our County Supervisor from the Dranesville District, and three members of the County Planning Commission. Mr. Carper readily appreciated the value of such bridges and asked the Planning Commission to prepare estimates of the cost of their construction. He was also persuaded to request an estimate for a car bridge at Hillside Drive. On receipt of the estimates, Mr. Carper turned them over to the Executive Committee. They will be presented at the next meeting. In the meantime, the School Department is studying the situation to be sure that Redd Road and Hillside Drive are the best locations for the bridges.

The problem of more adequate traffic control and safety precautions was also brought up at the Association meeting. It was suggested that sodium vapor lights at the entrances off Leesburg Pike would not only illuminate each entrance but, through their yellow glow, would amount to a caution signal. Mr. Carper promised to take the subject up with the Highway Commission Resident Engineer, Mr. Bolton, and the matter was turned over to our Roads and Signs Committee for action.

The speed limits on Route 7 were also discussed at the meeting. It was learned that speed limits are now established only after a survey by the Highway Commission. Because of this policy, there is no chance of having the speeds on Route 7 reduced. The Roads and Signs Committee is, however, trying to get appropriate signs and road markings at the Pike entrances. Traffic lights at these intersections are practically impossible to obtain. To warrant such a light, at least 350 cars per hour for 2 consecutive hours must use the intersecting street. We have, possibly, 1500 cars in the Hills. We have 4 entrances to the Hills. To warrant a light, half of the cars here would have to use one entrance over a period of 2 hours. You figure the probabilities.

Among other things happening at the meeting were the following:

The Association voted to sponsor Girl Scout Troop 299, a new troop of intermediates between the ages of 10 and 14.

Mrs. Whytock, Mr. Sanford and Mrs. McCormick volunteered to help Mr. Duggan with the Executive Committee program for registering voters in Fimit Hills.

Mr. Lane reported a profit of \$45.00 from the January dance. He was enthusiastic about the good time everyone had and expressed the hope that another might be had in the near future. Ed also asked help in organizing a card party.

Gerry Holmes reported on the progress of the first Fimit Hills Directory-Guide. A capable staff has gathered the information, solicited the advertising, arranged for the printing, and has brought the project to near completion. The sum of \$100.00 was voted to underwrite the immediate costs of supplies and printing. That sum will be returned to the treasury from the proceeds of advertising and sales. It was also voted that all net profits be set aside for the Community Center. The Directory-Guide will first go on sale at the next meeting, March 1st. The price is 15 cents. Only 1000 copies are being printed. Be sure to get one.

The last item I wish to mention is the Fairfax County Master Plan. What is it? What does it cover? What does it mean to us as a community? As individuals? And so what? Two things I can say. It covers everything from soup to nuts, including roads, sewers, water, health, schools, and general land use. It is essentially a program for spending our future tax dollars and for determining how many of them will be needed. The Executive Committee is considering the appointment of a special committee to study the plan and to report to the Association on the collective and individual effect, and also, possibly, on what our attitude should be toward a future tax program. Specific questions would aid such a committee in its study. If you have such questions, attend the meeting and voice them in order that they may be tabulated and submitted to the committee. In addition, the County Planning Commission is scheduling a public hearing at the Freedom Hill school for the middle of March. Watch your newspapers for the exact date and time.

And that's it

James M. Whytock
President