

Olde Forge / Surrey Square Civic Association

Annual Membership Meeting

May 5, 2022, 7:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Joan Bishop, president, convened the Annual Meeting of the Olde Forge / Surrey Square Civic Association on May 5, 2022 at 7:30 pm via Zoom. Notice for the meeting was provided via e-mail and Facebook. Phone dial-in as well as video connections over the Internet using Zoom were available.

Members attending included are listed on page 5.

2. Long Branch Stream Restoration Update

Charles Smith of Fairfax County provided an update on the Long Branch Stream Restoration. Public comment is welcome at the County website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/long-branch-input>.

Charles Smith can also be contacted with questions at 703-324-5500 or Charles.smith@fairfaxcounty.gov. A few relevant screenshots are shown below; additional information is available on the County website. The anticipated project schedule is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Overall schedule

The County is asking for input on the proposed project extent, site description, concerns, and any additional information that should be considered when evaluating project viability.

RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

Upper Mainstem

- Pickett Road to Tara Drive
- Olde Forge Park
- Olde Creek Elementary School to Pickett Road

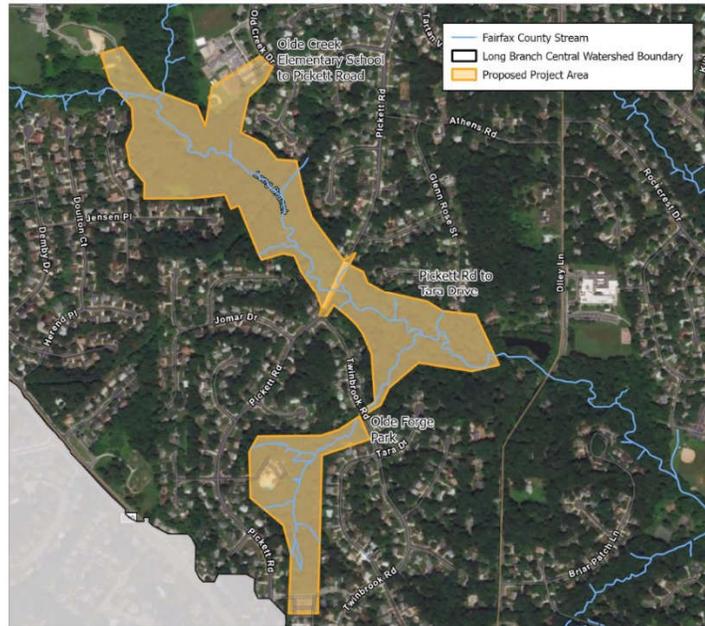


Figure 3. Our projects are a few of about 21 projects

Some of the projects are shown below and in the map at right. More detail can be found on the County website.

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Olde Forge Park



Incised, over widened perennial channel.



Concrete channel from swim club parking lot.



Existing stormwater pond.

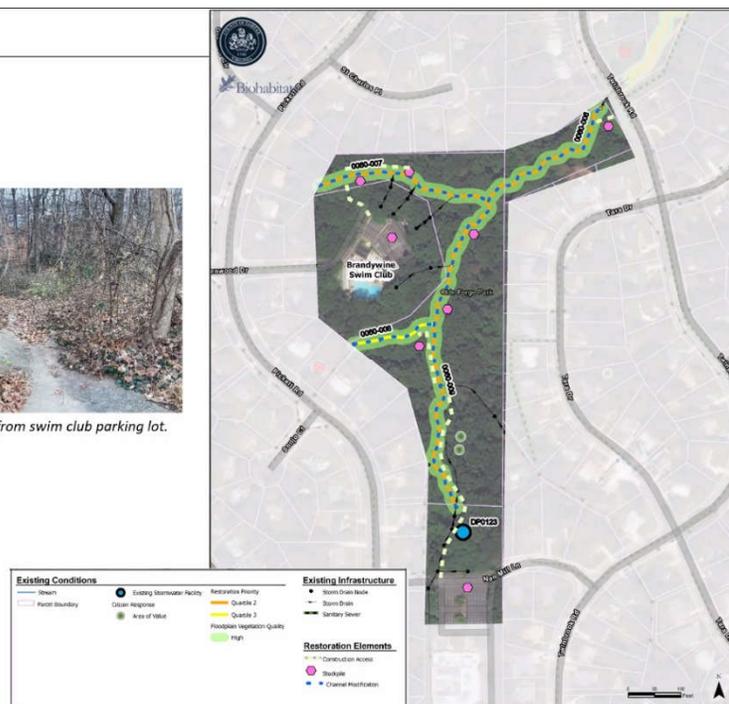


Figure 2. Olde Forge Park Projects

3. Parks Update

Dave Cote provided an update in lieu of Gary Krauss, who was out of town and unable to attend. He read a report from Gary that included additional Invasive Plant removal events on June 4 and 11th.

4. Braddock District Update.

Dave Cote, 2nd vice president, provided an update from the Braddock District / Walkinshaw reports, including that Braddock Road will be resurfaced to George Mason University.

5. Treasurer's Report

Jae Park, treasurer, noted that the Association was doing great so far, with 195 of 351 households having paid their dues. There was \$2000 carried over from the previous fiscal year, income of \$3700, expenses of \$1650, leaving just over \$4109 available for the Civic Association. He stated that funds would be available to support the cleanup¹.

Joan Bishop added that donations were used to purchase one of the sign boards and the Brandywine Swim Club bought the other one. The same approach was used for the purchase of the A-frames.

6. Membership Report

Dorothy Firsching, membership chair, noted that while many members have paid online or sent in checks, an additional effort will be made door-to-door to encourage others to join or renew. producing the directory this year. We ended 2021 with 236 members, that is, 67%. We are currently at 55%.

This year we plan to produce the directory. Members may be offered the option of receiving their directory in electronic form rather than printed form, reducing costs.

Joan Bishop suggested using a survey to determine member preferences.

7. Neighborhood Watch

John Firsching, 1st vice president, reported that our immediate neighborhood had been quiet, with little crime. The area most at risk for incidents is along Braddock Road, which is difficult to patrol via vehicle due the speed of traffic. There has been a spate of catalytic converter thefts in the broader area.

Joan Bishop added that there are things that are not reported, such as people taking photos of homes. She encouraged people to call the police non-emergency number if they see anything suspicious.

8. Hospitality Update

Marilyn Sitts reported a number of new move-ins. The Chesnicks will move in in June. Jessica Matthews has moved in on Stevebrook.

9. Landscaping Update

Barb Price reported that work on the Pickett side of the entrance had been done by Scott Riehl and Adam Egan and others. Volunteers or donations are needed for the Twinbrook side.

10. Decorations

Colleen Agan was not in attendance. The holidays team generally decorates about 17 street signs.

¹ A formal budget showing all planned expenses was not provided.

11. Notary Services Update

Kelly Dillon, secretary, is stepping down. We thank her for her long-time service. Kelly will continue providing notary services until her certification runs out. Dave Cote has gotten his certification and is waiting for his notary stamps. He will then be able to offer notary services to members of the association.

12. Social Events

Joan Bishop, president, is also social events chair. She reported that we had conducted and/or will conduct scavenger hunts, the Easter Egg hunt, the Ice Cream social with National Night out (the first Tuesday in August), the Fall Festival, the Graduation Parade, Wet Pants contest, chalk the walk, and yard sale.

13. Trash Company Research

Dave Cote reported on his April research into trash company terms and pricing for the community. Fairfax County may agree to provide County pickup of trash if 55% of homeowners agree. It would be price competitive, at about \$400 per year, though they are looking at raising the fee to \$475 as of July 1st. We would need a petition and a public hearing. This would not include leaf pickup, which would cost an additional \$90 per year. There was no motion to pursue the petition.

14. 2022 Clean Up

John Firsching is heading the clean up effort this year. Fairfax County is not providing the dumpsters that they previously provided free to the association. John stated that the last year's cleanup effort was quite a challenge and not possible to get done in one day. His goal is to get bids from a number of companies for rental trucks and dumpsters, and to come to some conclusion by the end of June as to what type of a cleanup we can afford to do.

Joan interjected that last year, we hired 1-2-3 Junk for a three hour stint and the truck was filled in 45 minutes. We had one rental truck at our cost, and it had to take 5 trips to the dump, in addition to having volunteers who separated out scrap metal and took bicycles separately to bike donation locations. She said it cost \$1500; Jae thought it actually cost more than that.

Estimating the capacity we will need is a major challenge. John is getting bids on 300 cubic yards, but that may or may not be the volume of junk that member households have.

In any case, the cleanup will be limited to members only. Joan interjected that last year we changed the rules so that if members join in September, dues are \$25.00. Dorothy did not recall this change. John emphasized that what is important is that we get members to sign up early so that we can plan and NOT take last minute signups, when we will have already made our arrangements.

15. Officer Elections

Three offices are open: 2nd vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Second Vice President. Dave Cote, second vice president, agreed to run again. He was nominated by Joan Bishop, motion seconded by Marilyn Sitts. He was unopposed. The members present were all in favor. Dave was re-elected as second vice president.

Secretary. Kelly Dillon stepped down as secretary. No one agreed to run. The office remains vacant.

Treasurer. Jae Park stepped down as treasurer. Dorothy Firsching agreed to run. Joan nominated Dorothy; Marilyn seconded the motion. She was unopposed. The members present were in favor. Dorothy was elected Treasurer.

Joan thanked Jae for his service and noted that he is on the pool board as well.

16. New Business

Sandra asked whether the Civic Association pays for any “watch lights” in the neighborhood, for example, the one at the corner of Nan Mill and the pool parking lot, on the Pickett side. It has not been on for 3 or 4 years.

It was felt that this light may be the property of the Korean Presbyterian church. Joan will approach the pastor of the church, Rev. Bang, about it.

Adjournment

There being no additional business, Dave made a motion to adjourn. Marilyn seconded it. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy Firsching
Membership chair and incoming treasurer

Meeting Attendees included:

- Joan Bishop, current president
- Louise Donargo
- Jae Park, outgoing treasurer
- Dave Cote, 2nd vice president
- John Firsching, 1st vice president
- Dorothy Firsching, incoming treasurer
- Lynn Bonner
- Craig Myers
- Barbara Price
- Randy Price
- Barbara Farron
- Rejina Sharkey
- Sandra B
- Jessica Matthews
- Marilyn Sitts
- Tim Sitts
- Bob Bonner