

FVNCA Minutes

January 17, 2008

22 Ferry Village members and friends were present for this meeting

Introductions were made.

1. Minutes – Sept. minutes were approved as written

2. Financial Report – Accepted as written

Current Balance:

\$ 1,201.10 Memorial Fund

\$ 1,075.38 Savings Account

\$ 1,301.52 Checking Account

Membership funds collected for 2008 dues, to date: \$185.00

3. Guest Presentation – Suzanne Godin, Superintendent of South Portland Schools

- Suzanne began her presentation by introducing herself to us and sharing with us her history in education. She also shared with us her “entry plan” that she conducted this fall as our new superintendent which consisted of individually meeting with 120 community members through 34 meetings, including a meeting with members of FVNCA. She also shared the results of these community meetings in which she asked 3 essential questions:

1. What should the So. Portland School Dept. be recognized for?
 - Reputation of the district
 - Dedicated Employees – sought after place to work
 - Diverse Community – Inclusive of ALL students
2. What challenges or areas of improvement do you see for the school department?
 - Maintain what we have as well as develop further in South Portland Schools
 - Relationship with the City
 - Recognize the changing face of South Portland
3. What priorities should I, as the Superintendent, be setting?
 - Engagement – PRIDE in our schools
 - Ensure ALL students success
 - Securing Resources to support needs of students

One of the challenges before our community relates to the requirement of having a budget approved by communities through a local referendum. Now, more than ever, it’s important for the community to attend and become informed of the school budget and its implications.

Budget hearings for the School budget are scheduled for: Feb 27th, 28th, March 3rd & 4th .

Suzanne next addressed the topic of redistricting within our school system. The decision was made to postpone any redistricting for a year to further examine the issue. A redistricting advisory committee has been created that includes parents, school personnel and community members to develop recommendations regarding redistricting on a broader scale which will then be refined by the Supt. and the administrators and incorporated into the budget for next year. There will be a community meeting regarding redistricting on January 30th at 6:30 p.m. at Community Center.

Suzanne distributed several related items that demonstrated the inequities across the schools in our districts: 1) spreadsheets of enrollment trends for all schools in the system (2) numbers of English Language Learners within all of our schools. Contact the Superintendent's office for more information.

4. Other Items

- Sawyer Street Park grant status ~ In order to move our vision of this park forward we are still in need of an artist rendition which may have a cost associated. In addition, when this proposal goes before the CDBG committee again, it will be necessary to have FVNCA members attend and support the grant.
- Old Joe's Pond status ~ Ralph Sama has expressed an interest in meeting with the FVNCA. More information regarding this will be provided at the April meeting.
- Ferry Village Memorial Fund ~ there has been one family who has applied and is going through the application process. Other families are encouraged to apply through the Boys & Girls Club, PROP and FVNCA. Also, donations are welcomed to ensure the ongoing success of this fund.
- Business sponsorship subcommittee ~ still looking for folks who would be interested in soliciting area businesses to promote their membership to FVNCA. As an incentive, each business that becomes an FVNCA member will have a free link from our website to theirs. Peter Tousignant offered to be involved with this project. Derek and David will set up a meeting with Peter.
- Other Items: Tom Blake announced that in the City Council's attempt to reach out to the community, there will be neighborhood meetings. On Wednesday, January 23rd at Small School on Thompson Street and on Monday, January 28th at the American Legion on Broadway, there will be Council workshops where the public is invited to attend and share information, ideas and concerns. The workshops are from 4-5:45pm and the public discussion is from 5:45 – 6:30pm. Please attend if you can to show that FVNCA is a caring community.

5. Wrap-up/Next meeting

- April 10th ~ Guest Presenter – Jim Gailey, City Manager
- Other possible guest presenter suggestions: Chief of Police
(if there are speakers residents are interesting in hearing from, please let David know)