



Reston Citizens Association NEWSLETTER

JULY 2009

<http://go-resTOWN.org>

Promoting and protecting Reston's founding principles.

Reston Citizens Association Elections to be held July 11-12 at Reston Festival

These incumbents have filed to run again:

President: Marion Stillson
South Lakes: Diane Lewis
Hunters Woods: Marie Huhtala
Lake Anne: John Lovaas
North Point: Jane Wong

These newcomers have filed:

North Point: George Kain
At Large: Tammi Petrine
At Large: Ken Meyercord

These incumbents remain on the Board.

(Their seats are not up for election this year)

Hunters Woods: Dan McGuire
Lake Anne: Barbara Burleson
At Large: Mike Corrigan
At Large: John Bowman

Candidates were asked to answer two questions, with word limits. Here are the candidates' responses:

Marie Huhtala

BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS:

Incumbent RCA Director for Hunters Woods; Reston resident since 1981; Retired Foreign Service officer and former Ambassador to Malaysia; Employed as Adjunct Faculty member at George Mason University, English Language Institute



OBJECTIVES & GOALS FOR RCA AND RESTON:

I believe RCA should take a vigorous role representing the true interests of Reston residents. When controversies arise we should solicit the views of our neighbors and stand up for their rights. As an independent body that receives no government funding, we are ideally placed to monitor the County's efforts to change our Master Plan and speak up in defense of the core values on which Reston was founded. We also have a special responsibility to monitor and defend Reston's environmental heritage and point the way toward a sustainable future.

John Lovaas



BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS:

Have served on RCS board, RA vice president, RCC and numerous committees and charitable activities in Reston.

OBJECTIVES & GOALS FOR RCA AND RESTON:

To strengthen RCA role as an advocate for Reston; Town status for Reston;

Positive voice for moderating new growth and ensuring high quality and support infrastructure

Jane Wong

BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS:

Current North Point Director, RCA; Community activist in Reston for 39 years

OBJECTIVES & GOALS FOR RCA AND RESTON:

Preserve the founding principles of our planned community; Work for a much greater voice for Reston as a community; Improve communication with residents



Ken Meyercord

BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS:

Reston resident since 1977; sent two kids through Reston schools; coached soccer, baseball, and basketball; Board Member and Treasurer, Northgate Square Cluster Association, 1980s; Founder, Reston Badminton Club, 2009; Producer, public access TV, 2004-present (filmed and broadcast two ResTOWN symposiums hosted by RCA); Sr. Technical Analyst, FreddieMac, 2004-present



OBJECTIVES & GOALS FOR RCA AND RESTON:

The title of a booklet I wrote in 2001, *The Ethic of Zero Growth*, pretty much says it all. I would welcome the opportunity to find ways to implement the philosophy expounded in my book. My wife and I have every intention to live out our golden years here in Reston. We like Reston the way it is and would hate to see it turned into the Queens.

George Kain

BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS:

Current: Reston resident/homeowner for 32 yrs; Acting President, Deer Forest Neighborhood Assoc. (16 yrs); Member, ARCH Issues Committee (2 yrs); Election Officer, Fairfax County, VA.

Previous: President, Reston Citizens Assoc. (RCA) (2 yrs); RCA North Point Representative (3 yrs); Treasurer, Reston Association (RA) (5 yrs); Director, Alliance of Reston Clusters and Homeowner Associations (ARCH) (5 yrs); Member, Hunter Mill District Council (5 yrs) serving as Vice Chairman (3 yrs); Member-at-Large, Fairfax County Engineering Standards Review Committee (3 yrs)



OBJECTIVES & GOALS FOR RCA AND RESTON:

Listen to and represent all of the residents of North Point; Emphasize and provide RCA open public forums which will address issues and matters of concern to all Restonians and seek reasonable solutions for the benefit of the entire community; Have RA and RCC restore timely openness of their communications with all Restonians and ensure that their leaders abide by sound fiscal responsibility and carry it out to the fullest degree; Ensure that existing valuable open recreational spaces in Reston are preserved and not transformed to uses which relinquish or diminish their availability to Restonians for the original uses intended.

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■ **Tammi Petrine** (no photo available)

BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS:

I have lived in Reston since 1976 with my husband, Bob and two children, Amy and Pete. I have been an active volunteer in: Hunters Woods PTA; Girl Scouts; Reston Soccer Association; Reston Institute for the Arts; Soapstone-Myrtle Neighborhood Watch; RCA's movement to make Reston a town; Fairway Cluster's board of directors

OBJECTIVES & GOALS FOR RCA AND RESTON:

I believe that Reston is a unique community that is about to undergo rapid transformation due to the redevelopment of the Lake Anne historic area and the arrival of Metro in the Dulles Corridor. I am committed to the preservation of the community principles that make Reston special including but not limited to: keeping affordable housing available; protecting our natural environment and open spaces; providing adequate transportation networks and roadways for easy travel to and across Reston; limiting the density of new development to keep the neighborhood feel of our community and control traffic; encouraging Fairfax County to supply recreational facilities comparable to its expenditure in other areas of the county vs. relying on Small District #5 fees to pay for new facilities supporting multi-culturalism; celebrating the arts

RCA is an invaluable resource to keep our community aware of the imminent changes coming and to protect the community of which we are all so proud. I look forward to working on its behalf.

■ **Marion Stillson**

BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS:

I have served as President for one and a half years, steering RCA through the tumult of 2008, when we came to an impasse on Township. Before that I was Vice-President for four years.

I have been an involved citizen in Reston for 35 years. I practiced public interest law in DC for 20 years before I retired.



OBJECTIVES & GOALS FOR RCA AND RESTON:

RCA's charter is to promote and protect Reston's visionary goals, and we need public recognition of this. We are an independent voice representing all of Reston, though as yet the community does not recognize this. We now need to serve the community by applying our founding goals to current events, bringing the goals into the future. This applies to new issues like community sustainability as much as to traditional issues like Reston's Master Plan update. I aim to develop new mechanisms so RCA again becomes a go-to organization for sound opinions on community issues.

NOTE: The filing deadline has passed, but a resident of South Lakes can mount a write-in campaign for the one vacancy on the RCA roster of Board candidates: for the second Director from South Lakes (RCA's South Lakes District encompasses residents who live in Small Tax District 5 and vote in South Lakes, Sunrise Valley or Terraset Precincts).

For more info on Reston Festival go to <http://www.restonfestival.com/>



■ **Celebrate the Full Franchise in RCA Election**

RCA is extremely proud that we retain the full franchise. As you know, only one person per household can vote in Reston Association elections. The Reston Community Center has just changed its rules to switch to the same system, with only one vote per household. RCC expects to use this system starting with its next election, in October, 2009.



RCA understands why our sister organizations have selected a lesser franchise. For us, however, the full franchise is still the best and only way to go: ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE! Celebrate the full franchise with RCA - everyone over 16 who lives in Small Tax District 5 can vote at the RCA booth at the Reston Festival either Saturday July 11 or Sunday July 12. If you don't attend the Reston Festival this year, vote on line. From June 25 you can print out the ballot and affirmation of address from www.restoncitizensassociation.org. Then mail the completed forms to Post Office Box 2851, Reston, VA 20195, to arrive by July 10.

■ **RCA Tries New Board Meeting Format**

RCA Board is experimenting with a new Board meeting format, in order to develop official positions on hot issues as they arise in Reston. The Board meeting now lasts two hours, instead of the former 90 minutes. The whole meeting is open to the public, but the first hour is off-camera. During this hour the Board begins or continues discussions on controversial community issues. Currently the Board has begun to develop its approach to the Indoor Recreation Facility jointly proposed by RA and RCC. In these discussions, RCA is mindful that as an organization, its mandate is to promote and protect the founding principles of Reston. Another fundamental for RCA is RCA's constituency, which is ALL of Reston, not segments of Reston. As a result, RCA endeavors to express positions that are in the general public interest.



During the second hour, Comcast cablecasts the remainder of the meeting on Ch. 28, from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm. The date is generally (but not always) the fourth Monday of the month---the schedule is listed many months ahead on RCA's website.

Usually the second hour of the meeting begins with a short presentation from a person prominent in Reston, followed by questions from the Board. Recent presenters have included Milton Matthews, CEO of RA, and Larry Butler, RA's Parks and Recreation manager. RCA is grateful to Comcast for providing space in its studio for the first hour of the meeting.

If you don't get Comcast cable, but want to watch the RCA Board in action, come to the studio and watch in person. There is not a lot of room in the studio, but a chair can always be found for you. You're entitled to watch: everyone in Reston over 16 years old automatically belongs to RCA, without dues or sign-ups.

Reston Citizens Association's newsletter is published 6 times/year and is available by email. In the absence of a self-governing body, RCA seeks to protect and to promote the social and political interests of Reston, serving as a forum for all residents and a voice and advocate for the community with County and State government. RCA's monthly board meetings are shown on Ch. 28 RCTV at 8pm on the 4th Monday of the month. To get on email list, or to suggest articles, contact Marion Stillson, RCA President at mbs@point0.net.



Some attendees at Reston's Land Use College (LUC)

The stakeholders committee (see photo below) met June 19th, with invited guests Jerry Volloy, president of the Alliance of Reston Clusters and Homeowners (ARCH) and Marie Huhtala from the RCA Board. The committee decided to find out more about the special study, why it was announced, and on a joint letter to Cathy Huggins from RCA, ARCH, and the Reston Association (RA) explaining our views and asking for a meeting with her.

Another issue the committee has been following is the plan for RA and the Reston Community Center (RCC) to build a large indoor recreation center on current RA parkland at Brown's Chapel. Consultants suggested a state of the art athletic facility with an Olympic sized pool, eight tennis courts, a full basketball gym, a large fitness facility, offices and maintenance facilities, and a three story parking lot. It would cost about \$40 million not including the land, which RA would donate to the county. It would be paid for by taxpayers in Small Tax District #5, essentially Reston, although it would be a facility attracting teams/persons from a wider area.

The committee went on a field trip to look at the area and decided that it was much too large for the community, it was in the wrong place and that it was outrageous that the Reston community would pay for it when it would clearly be used county-wide, and maybe state-wide. Committee members went to an initial meeting in which RA and RCC formally announced the project and will be attending further meetings in each district of Reston. The committee will urge the RCA Board to join other community organizations to get the plan changed or abandoned.



RCA Stakeholder Committee: Evan Junker, Co-Chair John Bowman, Dick Stillson and Marion Stillson

Reston Land Use College (LUC) Held June 16

After months of delay the county's Land Use College (LUC) for Reston finally got under way with an opening session June 16th. The LUC was proposed last October as the first step in the process of revising the Reston Master Plan and the related parts of the county's Comprehensive Plan, and several committee members attended the first meeting. This meeting, chaired by Ms. Heidi Merkel, a senior planner on the county staff, was an introduction to planning terminology and an explanation of the legal process in Virginia on planning and zoning.

Virginia is what is called a "Dillon Rule" state, which means that almost all power in regard to planning and zoning stems from the state General Assembly. With respect to Fairfax County, one of the two counties in Virginia designated an "urban county," much of this power has been delegated to the county Board of Supervisors (BOS). All changes in the county's Comprehensive Plan and all changes in zoning have to be approved by the BOS. They are advised by a citizen committee called the Planning Commission (PC) which, in turn, receives recommendations from local planning committees (in Reston, the Reston P and Z, headed by David Vanell and Art Hill), and the county planning staff.

Although the committee was delighted that the LUC finally got under way, it was very disturbed by a notice that the process of reviewing the master plan has been changed. The original process, which the committee was happy with, started with the LUC and an existing conditions study done simultaneously by the county staff. Then local groups would be formed to make recommendations for possible revisions to the plans. All current requests for zoning changes (called "nominations" and put before the PC) would be postponed until the plans are reviewed and changes, if any, approved. The process made sense because the overall plans would be finalized before specific zoning changes would be considered.

In June, Cathy Huggins ordered that the planning staff conduct a "special study" on the current nominations to be done while the broader plans were being reviewed. This change is significant because specific nominations may be approved before the overall plan is revised, and possibly be incompatible with the overall plan, but become a fait accompli. The primary example of this concerns density. All of the current nominations are for substantial increases in density and in the type of development allowed in the Reston Center for Industry and Government (RCIG), basically a corridor around the Dulles Toll Road and where the metro will be built. These higher densities and types of development may not be what the community wants. Also, they may require additional infrastructure to be built first, and the plan revisions would focus on what is required.

At the meeting, there was a sign-up sheet for future meetings, the next to be held in July although the date was not announced. If you wish to sign up, contact (e-mail is easiest) Heidi Merkel at Heidi.Merkel@fairfaxcounty.gov.



As reported in RCA's April 2009 newsletter, the Sustainable Reston Committee is sponsoring the **Annual Sustainable Reston Awards**. These awards will be in four categories: Youth (12-18), Adult, Non-profit Organization and Business. Current members of the Sustainable Reston group include Hank Blakely, Barbara Burlison, Rich Clark, Paul Hughes, Pat Simeral, Sharon Stech, and Diane Lewis. Anyone wishing to learn more about the Sustainable Reston group may contact Rich Clark at mustang16@hotmail.com or Diane Lewis at dyan03@juno.com. **See Award Nomination Form on pg. 4.**

Support the Reston License Plate

The VA DMV requires a minimum of 350 **pre-paid** applicants to produce a specialized license plate. Complete the form at: <http://go-resTOWN.org/docs/VADMVsa10.pdf> and send with check for appropriate fee made out to **Reston Citizens Association** to: Reston Citizens Association, P.O. Box 2851, Reston, VA 20195. According to instructions from the VA DMV, RCA will hold all applications and checks until the special license creation process is complete and then forward one check to cover all the applications to the VA DMV.



The Reston Sustainability Awards Nomination Form

(All entrants must reside within the Reston jurisdiction, as defined by the U.S Postal Service as zip codes 20190, 20191, and 20194)

All nominations must be received by August 1, 2009

Award category (please check one):

- Youth (12 – 18 years of age)
- Adult (18 or older)
- Business
- Nonprofit or community organization

Nominee

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

Email:

Tell us why this person or organization should receive this award

(Please use 500 words or less—you may use a separate sheet):

Nominated by

Name:

Address: Phone number:

Email:

Relationship, if any, to the nominee:

Send to:

Sustainability Awards

c/o Reston Citizens Association,

P. O. Box 2851, Reston, VA 20195

Or e-mail as an attachment to sustainable.reston@restoncitizensassociation.org