

**Highlands Community Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting February 5, 2014**  
**At the Highlands Country Club**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Mr. Matt Cullather, President, called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Quorum was established with Directors Mr. Matt Cullather, Mr. Scott Claus, Mr. Brian Davis and Mr. Terry Petze present. There were no absences.

**Community Members Present:**

There approximately 25 community members present.

**Guest Speaker:**

Mr. Cullather introduced Jeff Rumbaugh from the Richmond office of the US Department of Agriculture who made a presentation to the group concerning the remediation of the vulture problem in the Highlands, particularly in the Sterling Cove area and along Eastfair Drive. The remediation efforts will take the form of noise makers both at the landfill and in some subdivisions of the Highlands, hanging effigies in roosting areas and the reduction of the populations through selective culling. These efforts will require members of the USDA team entering private property and Mr. Rumbaugh handed out permission slips to those present and the form will be added to the community website. The remediation efforts may take up to 6 – 8 weeks to show results and there is no guarantee that the birds will not return in the future. Mr. Rumbaugh then entertained questions from community members in attendance.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Minutes of the December 4, 2013 meeting of the Board were reviewed. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Claus and seconded by Mr. Petze. Motion passed unanimously.

**Member Voice:**

Several members of the community expressed the opinion that the Board of Directors was not supportive of the efforts to close or curtail the operations of the Shoosmith landfill. Mr. Cullather presented several examples of support to the community by the Board in response.

**Reports:**

There were no officer reports.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Street Lights:**

Based on agreement among the Board of Directors by e-mail concurrence, the Board accepts the Developer's offer to install street lights in the newly developing areas of the Highlands, with Dominion Power continuing to maintenance of those streetlights. The Board agreed to pay the electric bill for these new lights going forward. There will be approximately 10 lights installed and the utility cost is estimated to be \$40 per light per annum, for a bill of approximately \$5000 annually.

Mr. Cullather made a motion to accept the proposal and Mr. Clause seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Volunteers:**

The community is again in need of volunteers to serve on various committees, as block captains and as editor of the community directory. All members agreed that a website message asking for volunteers would be a first step in recruiting new committee members.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Mailbox Posts:**

A community member suggested that the base of mailbox posts be protected from "weed wackers" and other such yard instruments by placing a piece of PVC pipe around the base of the mailbox post. After some discussion the idea was not supported by members of the Board.

##### **Guard Rails:**

During one of the recent snow storms one of the guard rails on a street in the Highlands was damaged as the result of an automobile sliding in the railing. VDOT has informed the Highlands that the current guard rails no longer meet federal guidelines. VDOT offered to repair the damaged guard rail to its original condition with the Highlands signed and affidavit to maintain the guard rail in the future. As an alternative VDOT offered to replace all the guard rails in the Highlands with ones which meet the federal standards. The replacement guard rails would be silver in color similar to those on state and federal highways.

Mr. Cullather made a motion to accept VDOT's offer to replace the guard rails with new ones meeting the federal standard, Mr. Clause seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

##### **Grounds Committee:**

The Ground Committed requested to spend \$2000 of their current budget for the addition of a new irrigation zone and extended planting around the new entrance sign located at the Woodpecker Road entrance to the Highlands.

Mr. Cullather made a motion to approve the request, the motion was seconded by Mr. Claus. The motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session:**

Mr. Cullather made a motion to move into Executive session at 8:07 PM, motion seconded by Mr. Claus. The meeting moved to Executive session.

The session discussed several issues pending from the previous meeting, however, no responses had been received concerning those issues, so the executive session adjourned at 8:15 PM.

**Adjournment:** The Board, by acclamation, adjourned the meeting at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brian K. Davis

Secretary, Highlands Community Association Board of Directors.