Common Area Committee Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2012

Members present:
Robert Burns
Anne O’Connor
Ann Dunlap
Susan Willis
Suzanne Vigil
Henry Chan

Members absent:
Susan Carleson

Others present:
Chris Neuberg, CMC
Mindy Lyle, Board Liaison

Call to order: Chairperson Robert Burns called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to approve December minutes by O’Connor, Dunlap favored, Willis seconded.

Old business: Neuberg reaffirmed asphalt work to begin in the spring.

Board update: Lyle reported all trees have been planted on Linear Park. Further discussion occurred among CAC of serious issues caused by lack of irrigation systems disclosed large amounts of money spent to continually replace large trees, shrubbery and sod as required. She also reported that new Alexandria City Manager, Rashaad Young, now lives in Cameron Station.

Volunteer Gardening program report by O’Connor indicates that to date there are two volunteers. Considering the time of year, she anticipates additional participation after an email blast as we proceed closer to spring. The story will also run again in the upcoming Compass. Lyle also reported that she had been contacted by several parents who are interested in having their high school children volunteer as a form of community service. It was also noted by O’Connor that Vigil had produced a flier detailing this program which will be inserted as a help to residents when they receive violation letters from CMC. Additional information will be sent out in community flier.

Pocket Park program updates presented by Vigil were accompanied by the content pages to be used in each member’s pocket park tracking folder. She used her folder on Donovan (east) as an example of how it should be utilized. Members will download for inclusion and augment when necessary. She used photos taken on site to illustrate problem areas which need attention and ideas to resolve them. As we near Spring, these issues will be presented to Lancaster for pricing. The committee also began a preliminary discussion on prioritizing work to be done in these parks. One major concern is the rebuilding of arbors located on Bessley (south) and Donovan (west) which have severely deteriorated over the last 10 years and need to be torn down and replaced. It was noted that climbing vines, while pretty, add to the deterioration in the form of bird waste and snakes. Lyle suggested meeting with residents to achieve an acceptable solution.

The CAC discussed that replacing landscaping where there was no irrigation often lead to the landscape not flourishing. The CAC did discuss the need for the additional irrigation proposed in the 2012 budget and prompted the acknowledgement that the committee is unanimous in its support for the capital
budget set to appear before the Board for approval which includes funds to be made available to
refurbish deteriorated pocket parks and install irrigation. Burns will send the capital budget items to CAC
members.

Each member discussed areas of concern on the parks assigned to them for tracking. Concern over the
center circle appearance was discussed and will be addressed later. Chris will follow up with Lancaster to
examine the roots in the grass and the necessary lining needed in the Helmuth pocket park and he will
also contact CMC for the plans Lancaster submitted last year for Ticer and provide those to Willis.

Committee discussed issues which have arisen in pocket parks after residents have received special
permits for use. In some cases, where large blown up moon bounces (over 10 feet) have been erected
and children’s pools have been used for birthday parties, considerable damage (loss of grass) has
occurred. Currently, there is no system of monitoring this use and residents, while paying a $300.00
damage/use fee, have not been charged for repair. Amending current regulations to prohibit inflatables
to those small, boxed items personally owned and to implement some type of monitoring for damage is
a recommendation CAC feels the Board should address within the current Common Area policy. Burns
will follow up with CMC regarding.

Burns suggested Lancaster attend March meeting.

Burns adjourned meeting at 8:20 p.m.