

Draft Minutes of Neighborhood Meeting of the West End Citizens Association

May 9, 2024

Attendance

- WECA Officers: Margaret Magner, President; Ajay Khetarpal, Vice President; Heidi Liu, Vice President – Outreach; Darlene Pierro, Treasurer; Angela Geer, Recording Secretary; Jane Pontius, Corresponding Secretary
- WECA Block Captains: Nadia Azumi, Maggie Hadley, Rick Mui, Andrew Sellman, Duane Rollins, Brian Shipley, Carol Starr, Patricia Woodward
- Others Attending: John Barker, Becky Batt, Patrice Davis, Peter Fosselman, Marie Gargas, Don Hadley, Spencer Hauptert, Pablo Hernandez, Jeffrey Hudgens, D'Anna Jensen, Kelly Kalepe, Jack Kelly, Aileen Klein, Louise Lovell, Erin Mahoney, Bob McGuire, Jacalyn Queen, Regina Reilly, Josh Schnell, Doris Schreft, Phillip Staub, Anna Winslow, Frank Zecca

Call to Order/Welcome

The meeting took place in-person at the Rockville Presbyterian Church meeting room and online via Zoom. President Margaret Magner called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Business Items

• **Election of 2024-25 WECA Officers**

The slate recommended by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Executive Board was presented:

For President, Margaret Magner

For Vice President, Ajay Khetarpal

For Vice President – Outreach, Heidi Liu

For Treasurer – Darlene Pierro

For Recording Secretary – Angela Geer

For Corresponding Secretary – Duane Rollins

There were no nominations from the floor and no request for discussion. A motion to approve the slate was made and seconded. The Slate was voted in with 33 votes for approval and one abstention.

• **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Darlene Pierro gave the report. We started the month with \$966.76 in our Bank of America checking account. There was income from advertising revenue of \$500, \$600, and \$300, totaling \$1400, and a donation of \$100. So, our total income was \$1,500. The cost for printing the spring newsletter was \$1,245.50 and we had the recurring Mailchimp fee and the Bank of America maintenance fee, totaling \$41.50. So, our expenses totaled \$1,287.00. The beginning balance of \$966.76, plus total income of \$1,500, minus expenses of \$1,287 leaves \$1,179.76

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

The draft minutes of the April 2024 meeting were distributed to the Executive Board in advance of this meeting. A motion to approve them was made, seconded and carried.

• **Public Safety Report from Rockville Police Department**

Lt. Matney had leadership training tonight and could not attend our meeting.

- **Report from the City**

Hjarman Cordero could not attend. His report on upcoming City of Rockville event was read aloud.

News and Information

- **Guest Speakers: Janet Gallant and Becky Batt from DontWiden270.org**

The speakers updated the group about the current status of the State's project to widen I-270 and add toll lanes:

Initial plans to have Route I-270 widened by 4 lanes was announced in 2017. With the change of Maryland governors in 2022, it was expected that the plan would be dropped, however, it has not changed. It continues to be pursued. Some of the major concerns are for the environment, equity, and lack of a solution to the true traffic problems. On Monday, May 6th, the Rockville Mayor and Council voted to request the Maryland Department Of Transportation and the Transportation Planning Board to remove the lower I-270 plans. It is important to not let up and continue to voice the opposition to widening I-270. The best way to support the grass-roots opposition is to sign up for the DontWiden270.org newsletter, which can be found at <https://dontwiden270.org/get-involved>

- **Organization Name Change**

In order to help ensure that all neighborhood residents feel welcome without regard to their citizenship, and to bring WECA in line with the titles of most other Rockville neighborhood associations, the following proposal from the Executive Board to make a change to the name of the Association was presented to residents at this meeting:

"To ensure that the name of the Association expresses that all West End residents are valued and welcome, the charter will be amended to replace the word 'Citizen' with the word 'Civic', changing the Association's name to the **West End Civic Association**."

A motion to approve this proposal was made, seconded, and was voted in by 37 votes in favor and one abstention.

Upcoming Events

- **SpringFest – Sunday May 19, Noon to 3 pm**

Pete Fosselman and Duane Rollins announced a generous fundraising challenge match: they will match every donation received by WECA between tonight and SpringFest on May 19, up to \$1000.

- **West End Women's Group**

This newly formed group has a very active schedule of events including:

- Comedy Show at Rock Bottom, Bethesda on Saturday May 11 @ 8 pm
- Cardio Dance in the Square at Rockville Town Square, Tuesdays @ 6:45 pm through the summer
- Happy Hour at World of Beer, Rockville Town Center, Friday May 31 @ 5:30 pm

Email Julia Beyer at julianbeyer2@gmail.com to join the group, or with questions.

Open Forum

- There was discussion about the high numbers of the deer population in the neighborhood. There was not a consensus on whether the deer are an overall positive or negative to the neighborhood. There was interest expressed in the birth control method that NIST Gaithersburg is using to control

the herd on their land. A suggestion was made to bring a speaker from Rockville Animal Control to one of WECA's fall meetings, since many experience challenges with different wild animals in their yard.

Next Meeting

The next monthly neighborhood meeting will be on September 12, 2024, following the summer break.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.