

Minutes of Neighborhood Meeting of the West End Civic Association

January 9, 2025

Attendance

- **WECA Officers:** Margaret Magner, President; Ajay Khetarpal, Vice President; Darlene Pierro, Treasurer; Duane Rollins, Corresponding Secretary
- **WECA Block Captains:** Rick Mui, Andrew Sellman
- **Others Attending:** Anika Halota, Pablo Hernandez, Dustin Jackson, Thomas Kim, Judy Lillibridge, Lt. Kenneth Matney, Jacalyn Queen, Kim Queen, Elizabeth Rizza

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 7:05pm

Business Items

• Treasurer's Report

Darlene provides the Treasurer's Report for November and December 2024. The association started November with \$2,629 in the bank and received a \$250 donation. Expenses included \$41.50 for MailChimp and bank service fees, and a \$15 bank maintenance fee in December. The ending balance is \$2,823. A motion is made and passed to contribute \$300 to the Rockville Presbyterian Church for meeting room use in 2025.

• Public Safety Report from Rockville Police Department

Lt. Matney provided the Public Safety Report. He discussed changes in the Rockville Police Department, including the deputy chief's resignation and the chief's retirement. The department is recruiting better, and patrol shifts are now one in eight or nine. The crime analyst put in a two-week notice, but a replacement is being trained. The department is focusing on community outreach and better staffing.

• Report from the City

There was no report from Rockville City.

News and Information

- Margaret provided an update on the Town Center Master Plan, focusing on parking, building heights, schools capacity, and the process of giving feedback. Parking requirements in the April version were to eliminate off-street parking within half a mile of Metro and a quarter mile of future BRT stations. The final draft includes a requirement for developers to submit a parking plan. Building height limits were increased, with a bonus for affordable housing or public space. The 120% capacity limit for schools remains unchanged, with no request to change it.
- Discussion on Deer Population and Public Health Concerns
Concerns were raised about the deer population in Rose Hill Falls, mentioning health risks and nuisance issues. Margaret explained that WECA submitted a request to include funding for humane deer population control in the 2026 fiscal year budget.

The mayor and council held a public hearing on the budget, and WECA testified in support of the request. The discussion includes potential methods for deer control, such as birth control and archery.

Open Forum

- Feedback was given on the need for parks in the area and the inclusion of new park spaces in the master plan.
- The impact of bike lanes on traffic and safety, particularly for children walking to school was discussed.
- Margaret offered to show detailed minutes of meetings with the Rockville Traffic and Transport Director to address concerns about bike lanes and traffic routing.

Next Meeting

The next monthly neighborhood meeting will be on February 13, 2025.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm