

## **Minutes of Neighborhood Meeting of the West End Civic Association**

September 12, 2024

### **Attendance**

- **WECA Officers:** Margaret Magner, President; Ajay Khetarpal, Vice President; Heidi Liu, Vice President – Outreach; Darlene Pierro, Treasurer; Angela Geer, Recording Secretary; Duane Rollins, Corresponding Secretary

**WECA Block Captains:** Rick Mui, Chau Nguyen, Rich Panzer, Jane Pontius, Rose Slater, Jane Wood

- **Others Attending:** Pete Fosselman, Jeff Hudgens, D’Anna Jensen, Eric Jensen, Louise Lovell, Peter Lovell, Jeanne Omeara, Bruce Plunkett, Joanne Shaheen, Alan Siegil, Jennifer Weston

### **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**

- **Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Darlene Pierro gave the report. WECA has a post office box. PO Box 1052 Rockville MD 20849. Since we did not meet over the summer, this is a report on our finances for June, July, and August 2024. We started June with \$3,571.97 in our Bank of America checking account. The only income was \$700 in August from Montgomery County to reimburse us for SpringFest expenses. As for expenses, the annual cost for our new PO box is \$200. We refunded Dawson’s \$150 for fall advertising because they closed. We also refunded an expense of \$82.41 from SpringFest. Mailchimp and various miscellaneous fees totaled \$102.23. So, the beginning balance of \$3,571.97, plus total income of \$700, minus expenses of \$534.64 leaves \$3,737.33 as our current balance.

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

Lt. Matney could not attend our meeting.

- **Report from the City**

Hjarman Cordero has left the City of Rockville. The City will provide information as to who is replacing his function

- **Approval of New Block Captain: Jane Pontius**

- There was a motion to approve Jane Pontius as a Block Captain at-large. The motion was seconded and there was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- There was a motion to approve Pete Fosselman as a Block Captain at-large. However, it was realized after the meeting that due to the rules in the WECA charter, Pete, with his position in the County Government, is unable to take the position and is not approved as a Block Captain.

### **News and Information**

- **Deer in Rockville:**

## Q+A Session with Fred Mowell, Neighborhood Services City of Rockville Police Department

- Officer Mowell gave an update on the questions that were turned in. He reported that the last deer cull was in 2022-2023, but there have no plans for anything in the future. At that time, they culled 21 deer. He encouraged residents to go before the Mayor and Council to reinstate a deer task force. Birth control for the deer was discussed and is an option but can be expensive. He reported that the police department has had maybe 100 deer carcass calls in the past year. Most of these are from car collisions. If you have injured or deceased animals on your property, please report it to the Neighborhood Services Dept.
- Pete Fosselman will reach out to other neighborhoods in Rockville to begin a coalition for deer management
  - There was a proposal to request deer population management as a Capital Improvements Project. This was moved, seconded and passed with no discussion.
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## ● **Town Center Master Plan Update**

- In the City's April 2024 draft of the Town Center Master Plan, which had been available for months for public comment, the City proposed building height limits of 200 feet in the RTC center core area, with bonus height of up to 50 more feet, and height limit of 75 feet along the RTC western edge bordering West End, with bonus height of up to 20 more feet.

However, the new plan draft proposed by the Planning Commission would create a “transition character area” on west side of Washington Street between Jefferson St and Beall Ave., with a bonus additional height of 50 feet (for a 125 foot total limit on those 3 blocks). The new plan draft also would cancel the City's minimum parking requirement for new construction anywhere in RTC. These changes brought about major concerns of how increased height limits and no parking requirements will affect the neighborhood.

The new Town Center Master Plan draft, containing these changes, is scheduled to go before the Mayor and Council on at their meeting on Oct. 28, 2024.

Residents are urged to provide feedback by emailing the Mayor and Council at [mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov), by commenting in writing on the plan at the City's feedback site [www.engagerockville.com](http://www.engagerockville.com), and/or by testifying at the Mayor and Council's public hearing on the Town Center Master Plan at their meeting at City Hall at 7 pm on Monday, October 28.

## **Upcoming Events**

### ● **Fall Newsletter**

- Block Captains should be getting the stack around Sept. 26.
- Block Captains will distribute to all homes between Sept. 28-Oct. 6.
- For the first time, the fall 2024 newsletter will be published in Spanish and Mandarin Chinese in addition to English

- **October General Meeting**
  - The speaker is Heather Gewandter, Stormwater Manager Environmental Management Division from the City of Rockville
- **Holiday Gathering**
  - Traditionally we have a Fall Fest and a Spring Fest.
  - Officers are hoping to make a change this fall and do a holiday gathering inside that will include support of a local charity.

### **Open Forum**

- It was announced that Trader Joe's is coming to the vacant Dawson's space
- Rockville Human Services needs Assessment Focus Groups
  - They will be held October 1 or 2 at various times at the Senior Center or Twinbrook Rec Center
  - If you'd like to participate, send your full name, phone number and email address to [smaizel@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:smaizel@rockvillemd.gov)
- Newsletter "Meet your Neighbor" Candidates
  - We would like to spotlight someone in our "Meet your Neighbor" section of our Newsletter, please give your ideas to Duane.
- Rockville Boards have multiple vacancies. Please take a look online if you are interested.

### **Next Meeting**

The next monthly neighborhood meeting will be on October 10, 2024.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.