

Minutes of General Membership Meeting
West End Citizens Association
May 27, 2021

West End Citizens Association Officers Present:

Brian Shipley, President
Noreen Bryan, Vice President
Donna Sprague, Vice President, Communications
Jen Timmick, Treasurer
Jane Pontius, Corresponding Secretary
Margaret Magner, Recording Secretary

Meeting Attendees:

- WECA Executive Board members: Liz Baldacci, Tracy DiGioia, Justus Getty, Maggie Hadley, Kathy Pirollo, Bob Treseler, Reverend Jane Wood, Kevin Zeletsky
- Other Participants: M. Ashton, Emily Bailey, Elise Blake, Tempe Blalock, Mark Casady, Alyssa Dirks, Ryan Dirks, Eric Fulton, Cathi Gale, Rob Gale, Allison Higgs, Chris Libeau, Louise Lovell, Jennifer Loy, ? Mabuchik, David Murray, Mayor Bridget Newton, JoAnne Nickerson, Stephen Nickerson, Carolyn Pollard, W. Pereira, Patrick Woodward, Melanie Zaletzky

Call to Order:

President Brian Shipley called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Welcoming Remarks:

President Shipley welcomed all and

- explained that the WECA Spring Newsletter had again been hand-delivered by our Block Captains!
- reminded that there would be no WECA meetings taking place, as is normal, in June, July or August
- explained that the revamped WECA website would soon be available at <https://www.westendrockvillemd.org/>
- described the Summer and Fall Initiatives WECA will pursue:
 - planning for the neighborhood Design Guidelines initiative (pending approval of a consultant by the City)
 - implementing zoning changes identified in the PA4 Neighborhood Plan (pending M&C approval of the 2040 Master Plan)
 - creating a stronger sense of community
 - supporting the vitality of Town Center

Residents who would like to participate in any of these, please contact President Shipley at shipley.brian@gmail.com

Business Items:

• **Treasurer's Report**

Jen Timmick provided the report.

• **Approval of Minutes from April, 2021 meeting**

- Draft minutes were distributed to Executive Board members prior to today's meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes, which was done by vote among the quorum of Executive Board members present.

• **Election of 2021-22 Officers**

The slate of 2021-22 Officers was circulated to the community in the May newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate as presented. President Brian Shipley asked if there was any discussion to add any candidates to the slate; no candidates were added. The below slate was approved unanimously. The WECA officers elected for 2021-2022 are:

- President: Brian Shipley
- Vice President: Noreen Bryan
- Vice President, Outreach: Tracy DiGioia
- Treasurer: Jennifer Timmick
- Recording Secretary: Margaret Magner
- Corresponding Secretary: Jane Pontius

• **Block Captain Openings**

We need your help to fill Block Captain openings for:

- Block 2C: Nelson Street between W. Montgomery and Beall
- Block 3C: Brent Road in Roxboro
- Block 5A: Beall Avenue between Mannakee and Lynch
- Block 6A: W. Montgomery between Laird Street and Nelson Street
- Block 7A: Luckett and Carr Streets, east of Beall Elementary
- Block 9C: Beall Avenue between N. Van Buren and S. Washington Streets, and N. Adams Street north of Beall Avenue
- Block 14B: Autumn Wind Way, Summer Garden and Tall Grass Court

Contact Margaret Magner (margaretmagner@nyc.rr.com) with suggestions.

• **Report from the City**

Hjarman Cordero could not attend this month. Margaret Magner read the information about City events from his report. A PDF file of the City report is attached to the email circulation of these minutes.

• **Report from the Rockville Police**

Lt. Berry provided the Police report in advance. A PDF file of the report items is attached to the email circulation of these minutes.

Guest Speaker: Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton

Mayor Newton spoke to the group about the status of the State's I-270 expansion activity.

- She cited a recent letter from R. Earl Lewis – Deputy Secretary MDOT dated 05.17.21 which:
 - 1.Describes a New Recommended Preferred Alternative
 - 2.Removes I-495 – FOR NOW
 - 3.Adds I-270-70 W but no Air Quality Conformity Analysis done on that section
 - 4.Widens American Legion Bridge with 2 HOT (High Occupancy Toll) lanes East and West
 - 5.Transforms HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle (no toll)) lanes to HOT lanes on I-270 North and South and adds one more HOT lane (i.e. 2 HOT lanes North and South but no HOV lanes)
 - 6.Creates a Highway within a Highway with Gude Drive and Wootton Parkway becoming access ramps
 - 7.Creates more traffic on Gude, Wootton, West Montgomery, etc. as people try to avoid tolls
- She cited planned toll levels (published in the Washington Post, May 27, 2021) for traveling by passenger car from the American Legion Bridge to I-370, using I-270, of up to \$5.64 **per mile, one way!**
- The Mayor made clear that she and all Rockville City Council Members strongly opposed the State's plans, and had registered Rockville's opposition in writing to the Governor and MDOT. She cited multiple reasons for concern, including:
 - the State is pushing ahead although the required environmental study has not been completed
 - the State's case was done pre-pandemic and does not reflect the changes that COVID has brought to increase work-from-home rates, and decrease commuter traffic
 - several important options have not even been considered by the State including:
 - the monorail proposed by the High Road Foundation
 - a plan to extending the MARC rail lines
 - making some of the lanes reversible to allow for more non-toll lanes in rush-hour direction
 - replacing standard and HOV lanes with very high per-mile HOT toll lanes, is an inequitable action which allows those who can afford to pay high per-mile rates to benefit adds greater wait times and transport difficulty to those who cannot.

Announcements:

- There were no additional announcements.

Adjournment:

- President Shipley thanked those attending for taking part in the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.