

## Minutes of Executive Board Meeting of the West End Citizens Association

April 7, 2022

### Attendance

- WECA Officers: Brian Shipley, President; Noreen Bryan, Vice President; Jane Pontius, Corresponding Secretary; Margaret Magner, Recording Secretary
- WECA Block Captains: Nadia Azumi, Maggie Hadley, Marian L. Hull, Francesca Kim, Andrew Sellman, Lynn Wagman, Rev. Jane Wood, Patricia Woodward, Kevin Zaletsky
- Other Attendees: Lt. John Berry, Ellen Childs, Susan Prince – REDI, Richelle Wilson – REDI, Melanie Zaletsky

### Call to Order

President Shipley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The meeting took place in-person at the Rockville Presbyterian Church meeting room. Several Block Captains also joined by Zoom.

### Business Items

#### • **Treasurer's Report**

President Shipley gave the report. We started and ended last month with a balance of \$1,832.97. There was no income or expense. This month we have already deposited \$900+ in newsletter advertiser income and more should be forthcoming.

#### • **Approval of Minutes from the March, 2022 meeting**

The draft minutes were distributed to the Executive Board in advance of this meeting. Patricia Woodward made a motion to approve them and Maggie Hadley seconded. They were approved by a vote of 10 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

#### • **2022 – 2023 WECA Officer Slate**

Jane Pontius of the Nominating Committee presented the slate of the nominees:

- President, Brian Shipley
- Vice President, Noreen Bryan
- Vice President, Outreach, Ellen Childs
- Recording Secretary, Margaret Magner
- Treasurer, Jen Timmick
- Corresponding Secretary, Jane Pontius

No one at the meeting requested to be placed on the slate. Maggie Hadley made a motion to approve the slate as presented. Lynn Wagman seconded. The slate was approved by a vote of 10 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

#### • **Report from the City**

Hjarman Cordero could not attend tonight.

#### • **Report from the Rockville Police Department**

Lt. Berry gave the update.

- Crime Report: 28 calls for service occurred in the West End over the past month.
- A vehicle was vandalized (tires slashed) in the 300 block of W. Montgomery Ave.

- A couple of theft-from-auto incidents occurred in College Gardens. None in West End.
- There have been a few catalytic converter thefts in the West End recently.
- The week of April 10 is National Dispatchers week. We recognize and appreciate dispatchers as the start of the whole process of getting police support. They are the first voice and the ambassadors to the public.
- Next Coffee with a Cop: April 21, 2-4 p.m. at the Town Center Starbucks.
- April 30, 10 – 2 p.m. is the next DEA Drug Takeback Day. There is also a prescription drug drop box in the Rockville Police Annex Building lobby. You can drop off expired or unused prescriptions 24-hours a day, no contact required.
- Maggie Hadley asked about a recent incident on Upton Street.
- Patricia Woodward stated there have been many incidents of speeders on N. Van Buren Street. Several Block Captains related speeding incidents and requested that speed bumps, speed cameras or another solution be put in place to discourage speeders and cut-throughs on N. Van Buren, Upton, Harrison, and Forest. Rather than confronting a speeder, Lt. Berry suggests calling the Rockville Police and reporting the information. There is also a program where if you report a speeder’s license number to the Police, they will send the registered owner of the car a letter.

### **Items of Interest in the Neighborhood**

- **REDI – Rockville Economic Development, Inc.**

President Shipley introduced Rochelle Wilson, REDI Deputy Director and Susan Prince, REDI Board Chair.

- They explained REDI’s mission for Economic Development, and explained that Economic Development is important for increasing and diversifying the tax base, improving quality of life, creating community cohesion and vision for future growth, attracting and retaining businesses and jobs, increasing per capita income and linking employer workforce needs to skilled workers.
- REDI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that helps businesses launch, locate and expand in Rockville. Its mission is to develop economic opportunities to help Rockville prosper.  
[www.rockvilleredi.org](http://www.rockvilleredi.org)
- REDI supports every business in Rockville, whereas the Chamber of Commerce supports Rockville businesses that pay Chamber dues. REDI does work together with the Chamber.
- REDI meetings are open to the public. The meetings are virtual, at 7:30 a.m.
- REDI also supports the Maryland Women’s Business Center (MWBC). In FY 2021, MWBC served over 500 small businesses, including 64 in Rockville.
- In FY2022 REDI is focusing on supporting businesses impacted by the pandemic, especially restaurants.
- REDI is piloting a project to create business districts within Rockville to share location-specific branding, promote local tourism and make neighborhoods destinations for people from outside Rockville. The Rock East District in the Gude Drive area is the first. See [www.rockeastdistrict.com](http://www.rockeastdistrict.com)

- **WECA Social**

President Shipley gave the update.

- WECA is having a social gathering on Saturday, May 21 from 12-3 pm at Monument Park. WECA will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, flatware, plates, etc. We are asking that everyone bring a side dish or dessert, and your own beverages.
- There is an alcohol permit for the event. We are not supplying beer or wine, but you may bring it.
- There will be groups at tables. Lt. Berry will bring someone from the Police Dept. The Villages group will be represented. The City of Rockville will be invited to have a table. There will be a balloon animal artist for the kids.
- There will be a big announcement in the newsletter. All are invited!
- There was a question about parking. You can park along Monument Street, at Julius West, on S. Van Buren, or on streets off of Falls Road.
- If you have ideas for how to make the Social a special event please contact President Shipley.

- **Design Guidelines**

Margaret Magner, Committee Co-chair gave the update.

- The WECA Design Guidelines Committee is actively working with the City Planning and Development Services department on Design Guidelines for the West End.
- The most recent deliverable is a survey to all West End households. The survey will be an insert to the WECA Spring Newsletter. It will also be publicized through a postcard, funded by the City, and delivered to all West End households. The survey can be taken on paper or online.
- The survey is only the first of many forms of outreach to neighborhood residents during the life of the project. This is not an initiative coming only from the Committee; input from residents is critical to the process.

- **10-12 S. Adams Street**

Noreen Bryan gave the update.

- These two historic houses, both now commercial properties, have been purchased by the owner of the Lockett House. The owner is now seeking approval to put a driveway between the two houses. The backyards are already paved as a parking lot, and have been for some time. This is a big concern because paving most of the front yards for a driveway would be contrary to the clear policy in the PA4 Neighborhood Plan of maintaining and enhancing the landscape and green space around historic structures, rather than decreasing it. It is especially important for the future that the City correctly applies the PA4 Plan policy in this early case. Noreen will continue to update on this issue.

### **Open Forum**

- Andrew Sellman asked if the Chestnut Lodge Block was covered with a Block Captain. Answer: not at present. We will publicize the open Blocks and work to fill them. Also, the Executive Board recently approved have At Large Block Captains, which may be a solution for some unfilled Blocks.
- Reverend Wood reported that she has been meeting with the Rockville Villages group. They are having an outing from April 29 from 5:30 – 7:30 at Woodley Gardens Park. The Villages group will be invited to our WECA neighborhood social on May 21.
- Marian Hull reported that Bullards Park in the area of Roxboro near 270 is showing signs of stormwater issues and is frequently locked. It's unclear if the park is still useable. President Shipley will reach out to the City to get an update and contact Marian about it.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the May General Membership Meeting on May 12.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.