

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

January 12, 2023

Held at Rockville Presbyterian Church, and on Zoom

### **Attendance**

- **WECA Officers:** Brian Shipley, President; Noreen Bryan, Vice President; Ellen Childs, Vice President – Outreach; Ajay Khetarpal, Treasurer; Jane Pontius, Corresponding Secretary; Margaret Magner, Recording Secretary
- **WECA Block Captains:** Nadia Azumi, Angela Geer, Maggie Hadley, Rick Mui, Chau Nguyen, Rich Panzer, Kevin Pedone, Andrew Sellman, Rose Slater, Carol Starr, Rev. Jane Wood, Patricia Woodward, Kevin Zaletsky
- **Other Attendees:** Hjarman Cordero, Kate Fulton, Rev. Susan Graceson, Don Hadley, Lou Harrington, Todd Loy, Doug Lunenfeld, Erin Mahoney, Margaret McCulla, Cathy Schairer, Charles Schwieters, Ken Sonner, Jack Thirolf, Amy Tomchin, Blake Warner, Melanie Zaletsky

### **Call to Order**

Brian Shipley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Rev. Susan Graceson, new Pastor since June, 2022 of the Rockville Presbyterian Church where WECA traditionally meets, introduced herself and welcomed the group to this space.

### **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

### **Business Items**

#### **• Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Ajay Khetarpal gave the report. WECA's checking balance currently stands at \$1,391.22. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve a donation of \$300 to the Rockville Presbyterian Church to thank the Church for the use of the meeting room throughout the year.

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

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

#### **• Report from the City of Rockville**

Hjarman Cordero, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator for the City of Rockville, gave an update on coming events and information of interest from the City. Residents can see the latest news on the City's website [rockvillemd.gov](http://rockvillemd.gov).

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

Brian thanked WECA's previous liaison officer from the Rockville Police, Lt. Berry, for his years of outreach and availability to West End residents, and introduced our new liaison officer, Lt. Matney.

Lt. Matney provided information on crime and complaints in the neighborhood, and upcoming events for the Department. Residents are encouraged to call the Rockville Police if they witness a potential crime, or if they have concerns or questions. Lt. Ken Matney can be reached at direct phone line 240-314-8962 or [kmatney@rockville.gov](mailto:kmatney@rockville.gov).

Please call Rockville Animal Control if you find a dog or see an unattended dog in the neighborhood.

#### **Guest Speaker – Chief Victor Brito, Rockville Police Department: Traffic Safety**

- Chief Brito explained his background, gave information about the Rockville Police Department, and discussed traffic incidents and traffic safety in the West End. Recent incidents include a fatal vehicle accident at Beall and Upton; a pedestrian hit in crosswalk at Beall and Forest; and an auto stolen from a home on Anderson. He discussed Theft-from-Auto, the most common car-related crime in the West End; to discourage this he recommended locking parked cars and keeping valuables out of sight. He described factors important in solving traffic-related crime, and traffic-related legislation being considered in Annapolis.

The Chief invited residents to contact the Police Department at any time with questions or concerns.

- Jane Pontius reviewed traffic and pedestrian safety measures such as crosswalks, bike lanes, and speed bumps implemented in the West End by the City after proposal or support by WECA.

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

- **Design Guidelines**

Margaret Magner gave an update about the current project status and steps taken to make it easier to find information about Design Guidelines on the WECA website, or to participate in a small group discussion to answer residents' questions. In early January, WECA requested the City temporarily pause the Design Guidelines work to fix issues with the City website and process; the request was raised by the City Manager to the Mayor and Council on January 9. We will continue to share updates via our list serv emails to the neighborhood as we get information from the City.

#### **Open Forum**

There was interactive Q&A and discussion on topics including the need for effective communication channels to reach the full community; the challenges with rebuilding community and neighborhood involvement after the pandemic; the role that upcoming neighborhood events can play in neighbors communicating with neighbors.

#### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, February 9 at 7 p.m.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.