

Minutes of Executive Board Meeting of the West End Citizens Association

February 9, 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:** Maggie Hadley, Marian Hull, Doug Lunenfeld, Rick Mui, Chau Nguyen, Carol Starr, Rev. Jane Wood, Patricia Woodward
- **Other Attendees:** Olusina Adebayo, Patrice Davis, Pete Fosselman, Kate Fulton, Don Hadley, Kafonek, Kelly Kalepe, Erin Mahoney, Darlene Pierro, Jack Thirolf

Call to Order

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

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Business Items

• Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ajay Khetarpal gave the report. WECA's checking balance began the month at \$1,391.22 and ended at \$1,091.22. Per motion last month, a donation of \$300 was made to the Rockville Presbyterian Church in thanks for the use of the meeting room throughout the year.

If anyone knows of a business that would like to advertise in the WECA newsletter, or donate to WECA, please put them in touch with Ajay.

• Approval of Minutes from the January, 2023 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, could not attend this evening. His update about coming events and information of interest from the City was read. Residents can see the latest news on the City's website rockvillemd.gov.

• Report from the Rockville Police Department

Lt. Matney could not attend this evening. He provided a report, which was read. Calls for police service from the West End dipped from avg. of 25, to 24 in January; no unusual incident volume. There was discussion about unsafe traffic areas including the center turning lane on W. Montgomery Ave., the area near Julius West, and Carr Ave. near Beall Elementary. There was a call for 3-4 people to form a Traffic Safety committee which could engage for improvements from the City such as sidewalks and increased city safety incident responsiveness. Coordination with the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee was suggested.

- **New Block Captain**

A motion to approve Doug Lunenfeld as the new Block Captain for Block 2B (Anderson Ave. from Nelson to Mannakee) was made, seconded and carried.

Guest Speaker – Olusina B. Adebayo, Executive Director, Rainbow Place Shelter

- New Rainbow Place Executive Director Adebayo explained his background and Rainbow Place's mission for the last 40 years, focusing on emergency overnight shelter for homeless women during hypothermia season. He also explained the shift to an expanded future mission: 24-hour a day support for young adults 18-24 years of age, year-round. In addition to housing, services will include workforce development, entitlements and benefits, mental health services and continual education.
- Rainbow Place has been located at the Rockville Presbyterian Church for decades. With this mission change, the shelter will move to a new location within the next year, still expected to be in the Rockville area. Mr. Adebayo stressed the strong connection Rainbow Place feels to this community.
- Residents can learn more about Rainbow Place and how to get involved at rainbowplace.org.

Items of Interest in the Neighborhood

Several WECA neighborhood events are planned for this spring:

- **West End Happy Hour – March 2**

We've organized a neighborhood Happy Hour at World of Beer in Town Center from 5:30 to 7 pm on March 2. Block Captains and neighbors are encouraged to spread the word, and attend!

- **Community Clean Up Action – planned for April 22**

There was discussion about focusing the clean up on streams or other water locations in the West End, and partnering with other neighborhood groups such as Scout troops, PTAs, churches. More information will be on the WECA website and sent via list serv emails.

- **SpringFest – Planned for May**

The last two Fests have been held at Monument Park. There was discussion about the location and signup tool for the 2023 SpringFest. Please share your recommendations with President Shipley.

Open Forum

- A suggestion was made that renaming the "Executive Board", and "Executive Board meetings", to a less formal and more inviting term, could invite greater participation from the neighborhood.
- There was discussion about the challenges and optimal ways to spread the word about WECA, to engage neighbors, to welcome newcomers to the neighborhood, to remind longtime residents about the organization, to show residents "what's in it for me" and to ensure that outreach and polls reach a majority of the neighborhood. It was agreed that the success of Town Center is a galvanizing issue; but also that several other smaller scale important issues such as traffic safety and/or sidewalks may present opportunities for quicker wins and bringing people together.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.