

Minutes of Executive Board Meeting of the West End Citizens Association

March 9, 2023

Held at Rockville Presbyterian Church, and on Zoom

Attendance

- **WECA Officers:** Brian Shipley, President (via Zoom); 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, Justus Getty, Doug Lunenfeld, Rick Mui, Chau Nguyen, Andrew Sellman, Carol Starr, Patricia Woodward
- **Other Attendees:** John Barker, Becky Batt, Pete Fosselman, Kelly Kalepe, Aileen Klein, Wendy Lee, Erin Mahoney, Lt. Matney, Darlene Pierro, Ken Sonner

Call to Order

Noreen Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome and Announcements

- **West End Happy Hour**
The neighborhood Happy Hour on March 2 at World of Beer in Town Center was a great evening! About 60 neighborhood residents came and socialized.
- **Community Clean Up Event will be April 22**
We'd like to have enough volunteers to have at least a couple of crews cleaning up litter at neighborhood locations. There is a form on the WECA website (westendrockvillemd.org) for those who want to get involved, and suggestions are sought for West End locations in need of cleanup. Updates will be posted on the website and sent via list serv emails.
- **SpringFest will be on May 20**
 - This will be a free outdoor gathering at a local park with food and kids' activities. Please contact Ellen Childs at wecaoutreach@gmail.com if you'd like to volunteer to help out.
 - A suggestion was made to utilize County and City neighborhood grant programs to help fund community gatherings. Volunteers will research each program and provide information to Ellen.

Business Items

- **Treasurer's Report**
Treasurer Ajay Khetarpal gave the report. WECA's checking balance was \$1,091.22 at the beginning of February and \$935.34 at the end of the month. The difference was payment made for domain hosting on the WECA website. 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 February, 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 meeting so there was not report this evening.

- **Report from the Rockville Police Department**

Lt. Matney gave the update. There was no unusual incident volume in February for calls for police service from the West End. Six cars were broken into on Upton Street on Feb. 14. Residents are requested to keep cars locked and porch lights on at night. There was a follow-up to the January meeting discussion about unsafe traffic areas in the West End: police staked out the intersection of Forest and Beall this month and gave 4 tickets. There was a request for police to watch the intersection of Mannakee and Anderson, and enforce the restricted driving hours on Anderson Ave.

Items of Interest in the Neighborhood

- **Accessory Apartments and ADUs**

- Noreen Bryan gave a presentation on proposed zoning text amendments related to Accessory Apts. and ADUs, providing information on:
 - The City's approach: What has been done to date and what's coming?
 - Brief history of City and WECA involvement to date
 - What should be the path forward for WECA?

This presentation took no positions; it was informational only.

- There was discussion on several topics including: how this would impact historic properties and non-historic properties located in a historic district; whether the City's proposed changes are related to Short Term Rentals; current issues with City enforcement of ADU policies and concern about the City meeting the greater enforcement needs, should ADUs become more numerous in the City; and how best to reach out to neighbors and understand what residents think about the proposed zoning changes.
- A motion was made, seconded and carried to create a WECA Committee to follow up on the questions and survey the neighborhood about Accessory Apartments and ADUs. The Committee will be led by Brian Shipley. Seven meeting participants signed up to serve on the Committee.
- A request was made to provide the presentation deck to meeting participants (done on March 10). The presentation is also attached to these minutes.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.