

Minutes of Executive Board Meeting of the West End Citizens Association

April 13, 2023

Held at Rockville Presbyterian Church, and on Zoom

Attendance

- **WECA Officers:** Brian Shipley, President; Noreen Bryan, Vice President; Ajay Khetarpal, Treasurer; Jane Pontius, Corresponding Secretary; Margaret Magner, Recording Secretary
- **WECA Block Captains:** Angela Geer, Maggie Hadley, Marian Hull, Doug Lunenfeld, Rick Mui, Andrew Sellman
- **Other Attendees:** John Barker, Hjarman Cordero, Tyree Davis IV, Julie Dean, Pete Fosselman, Kate Fulton, Jack Kelly, Aileen Klein, Wendy Lee, Erin Mahoney, Ben Marks, Barack Matite, Lt. Matney, Darlene Pierro, Ken Sonner, H. Strine, John Tam

Call to Order

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

Welcome and Announcements

- **Community Clean Up Event will be April 22**
The meetup will be at 9 a.m. at Christ Episcopal School. Students can earn SSL hours. More information is on the WECA website, or contact Ellen Childs at wecaoutreach@gmail.com.
- **SpringFest will be on May 20**
This will be a free outdoor gathering at Monument Park with food and kids' activities. Please contact Ellen Childs at wecaoutreach@gmail.com if you'd like to volunteer to help out.
- **Spring Newsletter Delivery – end of April**
The Spring newsletter bundles will be delivered with block maps to Block Captains' homes by April 21, and we ask that you deliver them to the neighbors on your block area by Sunday, April 30.

Business Items

- **Treasurer's Report**
Treasurer Ajay Khetarpal gave the report. WECA's checking balance was \$935.34 at the beginning of March and \$2,835.34 at the end of the month. Approximately \$1,900 was received this month from advertisers to the WECA 2023 newsletters.
- **Approval of Minutes from the March, 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, gave the report. Highlights:
 - Rockville elections will happen this Fall. The Council has recently been expanded to include 2 additional members. Look for the info postcard the City sent to every household. There was some discussion in the group at the meeting about the merits of aligning the dates of Rockville's local elections with the State elections, or keeping Rockville elections separate.

- The Mayor and Council will hold a working session on the new budget on April 17. Please provide feedback either there or in advance that you may have on the budget.
- The City will hold 4 upcoming interactive listening sessions on the Town Center Master Plan. Brian Shipley urged residents to fill out the City's online Town Center Master Plan survey.
- More information on these topics is available at the City's website www.rockvillemd.org.

- **Report from the Rockville Police Department**

Lt. Matney gave the update.

- There was a 50% increase this past month in calls for police service from the West End.
- There were 9 car accidents, including a fatal accident exiting off 270.
- 3 burglary calls were made, but each was later debunked as not a burglary.
- 40 speed camera tickets were issued. There was discussion in the group about dangerous traffic or speeding residents have witnessed in the West End.
- There was a report of swastikas painted at Julius West Middle School.

- **New Block Captain**

A motion to approve Darlene Pierro as the new Block Captain for Block 9D (W. Montgomery between Forest and N. Adams + north side of Great Falls Rd. between W. Montgomery and Williams St.) was made, seconded and carried.

Items of Interest in the Neighborhood

- **Connecting with City Staff**

- Barack Matite, Rockville's new Deputy City Manager, and Tyree Davis IV, Advisor to the City Manager on Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, each addressed the meeting providing information on their backgrounds and progress updates on the work of their offices.
- There were questions from the group for Barack Matite about what the City is doing to improve Town Center's appeal and success. Several in the group attending expressed frustration that many recommendations from the Urban Land Institute's Town Center study have not been acted upon.

- **WECA ADU Committee Report**

Brian Shipley gave an update on the Committee's activities. Please encourage your neighbors to take WECA's survey on ADUs and Accessory Apartments, prepared by the committee. The survey will also be publicized in the Spring Newsletter and through list serv emails to the community.

- **Vape Shop**

Kate Fulton gave an update. There has been concern in the community about the vape shop opening planned for the Woodley Gardens shopping center. The Mayor and Council put a stop work order on the opening and is considering an ordinance to disallow any new establishments in the City that have 25% or more floor space devoted to tobacco.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.