

Minutes of Neighborhood Meeting of the West End Citizens Association

January 11, 2024

Attendance

- **WECA Officers:** Margaret Magner, President; Ajay Khetarpal, Vice President; Heidi Liu, [elected] Vice President – Outreach; Darlene Pierro, Treasurer; Angela Geer, Recording Secretary; Jane Pontius, Corresponding Secretary
- **WECA Block Captains:** Noreen Bryan, Maggie Hadley, Doug Lunenfeld, Ricky Mui, Andrew Sellman, , Rev. Jane Wood
- **Others Attending:** Marie Gargas, Don Hadley, Kelly Kalepe, Lt. Kenneth Matney, Phill Staub, Frank Zecca

Call to Order/Welcome

The meeting took place in-person at the Rockville Presbyterian Church meeting room and online via Zoom. President Margaret Magner called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Business Items

- **Approval of Heidi Liu as Vice President of Outreach**

Due to the bylaws, Kate Fulton, the previous Vice President of Outreach resigned from her position as it could not be held as well as being an elected official. The officers recommended that Heidi be approved as the new VP of Outreach. A motion to approve Heidi as Vice President of Outreach was made, seconded and carried.

- **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Darlene Pierro gave the report. The report covered November 1st to December 31st because we did not meet in December. Summary: We began the month of November with a balance of \$431.54. We had monthly technology and banking expenses totaling \$83 during this period, and we received a \$50 donation at year end. We ended December with a balance of \$398.54

- **Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

The draft minutes of the November 2023 meetings 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**

Hjarman Cordero was unable to attend, and we did not have a report from the city this month

- **Report from the Rockville Police Department**

Lt. Matney provided the police report. There was discussion about the different departments (Sheriff's dept. Rockville City, Montgomery County Police Dept.) and when they are called. Lt. Matney discussed police recruitment.

- **Annual Donation to Rockville Presbyterian Church**

Each year, WECA has provided a donation to Rockville Presbyterian Church as a thank you for use of the space for WECA Neighborhood meetings. A motion to donate \$300 to the Rockville Presbyterian Church was made, seconded and carried.

News and information:

- **County 355 Bus Rapid Transit Project and Carver Bus Depot Proposal**

Montgomery county has a proposed project for a Bus Rapid Transit project.

Connected with that project, several neighbors raised concerns prior to this meeting that there may be a bus depot proposed for the parking lot at the Carver Educational Services Center. The County's 355 BRT Project is not clear in this issue so we will try to get more information. In 2016, there was a proposal that had a lot of push back.

WECA has been asked to join the MD 355 BRT Corridor Advisory Committee. Ajay and Kelly offered to be a part of this.

- **M&T Bank Building- Historic Designation Process**

There is a public hearing coming before the Historic District Commission that involves the M&T Bank building being locally designated as it is one of the remaining original art Deco buildings in Rockville. The motion to have WECA testify supporting M&T Bank historic designation was made, seconded and carried with 9 yays, 2 nays and 1 abstention.

- **Pedestrian and Traffic Safety**

- WECA Priority
- Advocate for cut through traffic reduction/calming
 - Places for the list:
 - Adclare Road
 - Beall Avenue
 - Martin's Lane
- Working with RPAC (Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee) on common goals
 - Invite for a WECA Liaison to RPAC (meet same night we do)
 - If you are interested, please let Margaret know.

Upcoming Events

- **WECA Leap Year Happy Hour**

This will take place on February 29th. Time and place are yet to be confirmed.

- **New Yard Signs!**

We have created yard signs to inform the neighbors about our monthly meetings.

Open Forum

- Seldon Higgins' 98th Birthday
- Phill Staub announced that his home (Upton Street) is now a drop off location for 1 Acre Farm CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). You can buy a share of produce and you can get fresh vegetables throughout the year.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be February 8th.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.