

Minutes of Neighborhood Meeting of the West End Citizens Association

September 14, 2023

Attendance

- **WECA Officers**: Margaret Magner, President; Ajay Khetarpal, Vice President; Kate Fulton, Vice President – Outreach; Darlene Pierro, Treasurer; Angela Geer, Recording Secretary; Jane Pontius, Corresponding Secretary
- **WECA Block Captains**: Rev. Jane Wood, Nadia Azumi, Andrew Sellman, Patricia Woodward, Marian Hull, Brian Shipley
- **Others Attending**: Councilmember Monique Ashton, Hjarman Cordero, Richard Gottfried, Peter Lovell, Louise Lovell, Paul Scott, Marissa Valeri

Call to Order/Welcome

President Margaret Magner called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The meeting took place in-person at the Rockville Presbyterian Church meeting room, online via Zoom, and by phone.

Business Items

• Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Darlene Pierro gave the report. We began the month of May with a balance of \$2,111.04. We had income of \$470 in SpringFest donations and expenses of \$515.00 for SpringFest. The ending balance at the end of the month was \$2,066.04. In July, we had one expense of \$26.50 for Mailchimp so we ended July with a balance of \$2039.54. In August, we had another reoccurring expense of \$26.50 for Mailchimp, so we ended with a balance of \$2,013.04

• Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

The draft minutes of the May 2023 meeting 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 (Senior Community Engagement Coordinator, Rockville) provided a city report. He reminded residents that the 2025 Community Budget Priorities survey is online in 5 different languages and asked that everyone please participate. He included important dates to remember for the budget: November 20, 2023, the 2025 budget will be presented for public hearing. December 4, there will be a council meeting and discussion. March 1, 2024, budget will be posted. He provided other ways to participate, including attending the upcoming candidate forums and forwarding thoughts and opinions on the Town Center Masterplan. A presentation of engagement and report will be provided in October. There will be a Virtual Tax credit workshop on Tuesday Oct. 3.

• Report from the Rockville Police Department

Lt. Matney could not attend this evening.

Items of Interest

- Margaret presented the 2023-24 Priorities for WECA which include external priorities: Pedestrian Safety in West End, Vitality of Town Center, Neighborhood Connection and Gathering. Internal priorities include an increase in the diverse nature of program offerings and outreach, an increase participation and engagement, “WECA into the 2020’s,” and relationships with other Rockville Civic and Business Associations
- Town Center Update
 - Margaret presented an update on the ongoing process to revise the Masterplan.
 - Last Masterplan written in 2001
 - Public comment period in October
- Capital Improvement Proposals were sent to City after Block Captains voted on them
 - Margaret presented the Capital Improvement Proposals that were approved by the Block Captains and submitted to the City. They include a dog park in Welsh Park or in another location in or near West End; improvement of stormwater safety and aesthetics on West Montgomery Avenue; and maintenance or replacement of the delapidated Welcome Signs at the entrance of West End on West Montgomery Avenue.

Upcoming Events

- Margaret announced upcoming events:
 - October General Meeting: Rockville Election Candidate Forum
 - Fall Newsletter: distribution from 9/30 thru 10/8
- Kate Fulton presented more neighbor-to-neighbor connections. Some options include charitable work, weekly neighbor walks, and happy hours. Progressive dinners were proposed. We would love everyone’s input.

Open Forum

- Nadia said that there have been complaints about trees not being cut in the cul de sac; they have been scratching the cars. Hjarman is to follow up. Nadia also mentioned that since brush was cleared, there is an increase in mosquitoes. Hjarman will follow-up.
- Concerns were raised about an increase in families of deer in the area. Margaret commented that she has heard this discussed at City Council. Margaret said we would raise the issue again and forward any updates .
- Officers now have organizational email addresses.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the October General Meeting on October 19.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

