

## Minutes of General Meeting of the West End Citizens Association

May 11, 2023

### **Attendance**

- **WECA Officers:** Brian Shipley, President (via Zoom); Noreen Bryan, Vice President; Ellen Childs, Vice President – Outreach; Ajay Khetarpal, Treasurer; Margaret Wagner, Recording Secretary
- **WECA Block Captains:** Angela Geer, Kristin Gilchrist, Maggie Hadley, Doug Lunenfeld, Kevin Pedone, Darlene Pierro, Rev. Jane Wood, Patricia Woodward
- **Others Attending:** John Barker, Brenda Dunham, Dutch Dunham, Pete Fosselman, Eric Fulton, Kate Fulton, Suresh Gupta, Herbert Hutchings, Kelly Kalepe, Joe Kee, Erin Mahoney, Craig Maloney, Bridget Newton, Duane Rollins, Paul Rosenfeld, Ken Sonner, Harvey Strine

### **Call to Order/Welcome**

President Brian Shipley 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. Brian participated via Zoom while on business travel. VP Noreen Bryan ran the meeting in the room.

Noreen thanked the WECA Block Captains for going door to door throughout the neighborhood to deliver the spring newsletter. She gave a reminder about the SpringFest happening on May 20 from 12 – 3 pm at Monument Park, with food and drink for everyone and a face-painter for kids. The Spring Clean-Up event in April was very successful.

### **Business Items**

#### • **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Ajay Khetarpal gave the report. We began last month with a balance of \$2,535.34. We had income of \$1,100 in newsletter advertisement fees and expenses of \$1,224.30 for newsletter printing and \$300 for rental of Monument Park for SpringFest. The ending balance at the end of the month was \$2,111.04.

#### • **Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

The draft minutes of the April 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 could not attend the meeting but provided a report from the City. This is attached as an Addendum to these notes.

#### • **Report from the Rockville Police Department**

Lt. Matney could not attend this evening.

#### • **New Block Captains**

Motions were made, seconded, and votes carried, to approve the following as new Block Captains:

- Duane Rollins for Block 5B (500 block of Anderson Ave.)
- Kate Fulton for Block 7A (parts of Beall, Lockett, Forest and Carr)
- Joe Kee for Block 7B (parts of Anderson, Beall, Lynch and Lockett)

- **Advertising Policy**

Work is being done to clearly define the organization's policy for accepting advertising in the WECA newsletter.

- **Fundraising**

There was discussion about fundraising efforts for SpringFest. A QR-code will be available at SpringFest for accepting donations. WECA has also applied for two grants (City of Rockville and Montgomery County) supporting neighborhood-sponsored gatherings. Neither has come through yet, but may be available to support future gatherings such as FallFest.

- **Election of 2023 – 2024 Officers**

- At the April Executive Board meeting, the Nominating Committee had presented the following slate of officer nominees:
  - President: Margaret Magner
  - Vice President: Ajay Khetarpal
  - Vice President, Outreach: Kate Fulton
  - Treasurer: Darlene Pierro
  - Recording Secretary: Angela Geer
  - Corresponding Secretary: Jane Pontius
- Noreen asked if there were nominations from the floor. Having none, a motion was made, seconded and carried to elect this slate as the new officers. With a total of 30 votes from the room and online, the motion carried unanimously.

### **Items of Interest in the Neighborhood**

- **Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)**

Noreen presented the report out from the WECA ADU Committee (Noreen Bryan, Kate Fulton, Pete Fosselman, Kelly Kalepe, Ajay Khetarpal, Doug Lunenfeld, Ricky Mui, Darlene Pierro, and Chair Brian Shipley) on the recent survey of the neighborhood about ADUs. The Committee developed a community survey using information from the City's website. West End residents were invited through list serv emails, the spring newsletter, and door to door discussions, to go online and take the survey. The ADU Committee provided testimony on the survey results at the May 10 City Planning Commission meeting. The report presentation and survey results are available at the WECA website at <https://westendrockvillemd.org>

### **Open Forum**

- Noreen thanked outgoing President Brian Shipley for his four years of service in this role and reviewed highlights of his many achievements!
- Incoming President Margaret Magner addressed the meeting, thanked outgoing officers Noreen Bryan and Ellen Childs, and expressed the gratitude of all the new officers for the trust of the neighborhood.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the September Executive Board Meeting on September 14.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

## **Addendum: May, 2023 Report from the City**

Information provided by Hjarman Cordero, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator, City of Rockville

### **1- Rockville Residents Will Have Their Say on Advisory Referenda Questions**

As well as choosing seven members to elect to the city's Mayor and Council, voters will decide on advisory referenda questions for the City of Rockville's 2023 election.

The questions, if approved by voters, would amend the city charter to:

- Lower the voting age to 16.
- Permit noncitizens to vote.
- Create representative districts.
- Set term limits.
- Implement ranked-choice voting.

The amendments are recommendations from the Charter Review Commission.

For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/election](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/election) or email [elections@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:elections@rockvillemd.gov).

### **2- Virtual Landlord-Tenant Informational Webinar**

Landlords and tenants can attend a virtual Landlord-Tenant Informational Webinar from noon-1 p.m. Wednesday, May 24.

The webinar aims to provide the city's rental community with valuable insights into policies and procedures of the Rental Facilities and Landlord-Tenant Relations code, and steps to obtain assistance from the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Topics to be covered include an introduction to housing and community development housing programs staff, services available through landlord and tenant affairs and the Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit rental program, the role of the Landlord-Tenant Affairs Commission, FAQs, and resources for landlords and tenants.

Attendees can register ahead of time via WebEx at [bit.ly/landlord\\_tenant\\_webinar\\_2023](https://bit.ly/landlord_tenant_webinar_2023).

For more landlord and tenant resources, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/259/Landlord-Tenant-Complaints](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/259/Landlord-Tenant-Complaints)

### **3- Memorial Day and Juneteenth in Rockville**

Rockville City Hall and some city facilities will be closed on Mondays, May 29 for Memorial Day and June 19 for Juneteenth.

Recycling, trash and yard waste collection will be made one day later than usual during the weeks of May 29 and June 19. Find more information at [www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash).

The following will be closed:

- Rockville Senior Center; Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers; Croydon Creek Nature Center and the Rockville Skate Park, which are always closed Mondays.
- Glenview Mansion and the Rockville Civic Center business office; F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and box office, which is always closed Mondays. Find tickets at [www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre).

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center indoor pool and fitness center are open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. May 29 and regular hours June 19. Outdoor pools open at noon May 29. Due to the city's Memorial Day parade, access to the center's parking lot will be restricted until after noon.

Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter) for individual pool schedules or call [240-314-8750](tel:240-314-8750).

Parking will be free at city-owned meters on May 29 and June 19. For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) or call [240-314-5000](tel:240-314-5000).

#### **4- Compensation Commission Seeks Public Input**

The city's Compensation Commission is seeking public comments about annual compensation for the Mayor and Council.

The commission is soliciting public input through an online survey and will hold a public forum to hear from city residents from 7-8 p.m. Thursday, May 11 in the Mayor and Council chambers at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

The survey and May 11 public forum will ask residents to answer the question: "Do you believe that the current compensation for Mayor and Council is reasonable? If not, please explain. Currently, the annual stipend is \$37,560 for the mayor and \$30,483 for councilmembers."

City residents can also answer the question using the survey at [www.rockvillemd.gov/103/Compensation-Commission](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/103/Compensation-Commission), where they can learn more about Mayor and Council compensation and about the commission.

The commission's five members must be City of Rockville residents or have a place of business in the city. By ordinance, the commission is required to convene every four years and provide a recommendation to the Mayor and Council by June 30. Any change in compensation would not take effect until after the following election.

#### **5- Mark your calendars for the Hometown Holidays Music Fest at RedGate Park**

The free festival at the city's newest park, at 14500 Avery Road, will feature two stages of

entertainment by local, regional and national/international acts, a Taste of Rockville from local restaurants, and activities for kids, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, May 27 and Sunday, May 28. The city will operate a free shuttle service to RedGate Park on both days of the festival, running every 20 minutes, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., from Monroe Street, between East Montgomery Avenue and Middle Lane.

There will be no shortage of musical acts, including performances by The Nighthawks, Capital Effect, The JoGo Project, Cole Larravide, and Ocho De Bastos. Other entertainment will include kids music by Groovy Nate and an animal show by Ferrets and Friends.

Kick off your shoes and kick off summer with your feet in the sand at two sand pits, join a game of cornhole, or take a morning yoga class with Thrive Yoga from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Sunday.

Find more details, as they are announced, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH) and “City of Rockville Hometown Holidays” on Facebook.

Find information about the city’s 79th annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, May 29, in Rockville Town Center, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/memorialday](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/memorialday).