

**APPROVED MINUTES
THE ASPEN HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
11 February 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Ryan at 7:03 P.M. in the Aspen Hill Library.

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present at the meeting were board members: Jamison Adcock, Marna Cary, Pat Clarke, Robert Clarke, Joan Cohen, Steven Cohen, Sheila Convery, Gail Cooper, Susan Eisendrath, Judy Fink, Sol Levy, Suzy Levy, Jiri Malek, JoAnna Nasios, Sam Nasios, Linda NeCastro-Pastel, Carol Petzold, Walter Petzold, Selene Robinson, Melissa Ryan, Jane Salzano, Bill Shelton, Carla Steinborn, Judy Tankersley and Kris Vaitkus

Absent from the meeting were board members: Don Becker, Steven Becker, Sharon Dean, Rusty Embrey, Patricia King, Alexandra Minckler, Monica Reyes-Dame, Roselia Rodriguez, and Michael Salay.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 14, 2015 meeting were corrected and approved. The Board agreed to the electronic correction/approval of these and future minutes within one week of their posting by the Reporting Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Steven Cohen presented the financial report for January summarized as follows:

Balance as of 1 January 2015: \$4,918.27
Income: \$125.00 from membership dues and a donation
Expenditures for January: \$40.00 [library room rental/tax workshop]
Petty Cash: \$78.00
Balance as of 31 January 2015: \$5,081.27

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership chair Sheila Convery reported that the current membership stands at 144 persons. A discussion was held regarding contacting former members not current with their dues. Judy Tankersley moved that "A brief letter and membership form be mailed to previous members by the Membership Committee using the envelopes previously addressed for that purpose." The motion was unanimously agreed to.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Code Enforcement - [Sharon Dean, Chair] - no report

Environment - [Gail Cooper & Susan Eisendrath, Co-Chairs]
They announced the following:

- There will be a Climate Change Class, 15 February, 2015 from 12:30 until 2:15 PM in the Chalice House of the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda. A light lunch provided.
- The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County will be sponsoring a talk on "Too Many Deer and Invasive Plants" at the Wheaton Library 23 February from 12:15 to 2:00 PM. Drinks and dessert provided.

Fire & EMS - [Judy Tankersley, Chair] - no report

Community Outreach - [Monica Reyes-Dame, Chair] - no report

Library - [Kris Vaitkus, Chair] - The following activities are scheduled for the Aspen Hill Library:

- Children's Stories read by Council Member Sidney Katz, Wednesday, 18 February at 10:00 AM.
- Free Homework Help and Family Learning Nights, Wednesdays, 4:00-7:00 PM, February 18 & 25, and March 4, 11, 18 & 25.
- Tuesday Tales, for children up to 6 years, songs, stories and rhymes, at 10:30 AM and repeated at 11:30 AM, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17.
- Pajama Night @ 6:30 PM for children 3-6 years, stories, rhymes and songs. 2 March.

- For Babies Only, songs, rhymes, and stories for children up to 18 months. 28 February and 28 March.
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For a complete list of library activities visit:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library>

- Property tax credit workshop, Tuesday February 17th, 1:30 - 3:30 PM

Newsletter - [no Chair] - no report

Policing & Crime - [Jane Salzano, Chair] - no report

Recycling & Trash - [Carla Steinborn, Chair] - Because 16 February is a holiday no trash/recycling will take place and collection will move to one day later in the week.

Schools - [Jiri Malek, Chair] - Jamison Adcock reported that he attended a meeting of the Lucy Barnsley Elementary PTA at which the future school renovation was discussed. It has not yet been funded though even more trailers are scheduled for placement to help alleviate the overcrowding. He said the parents seemed receptive to the idea of re-opening English Manor Elementary as another neighborhood school to solve the severe overcrowding problem.

Suzy Levy inquired of the committee if they knew when Wheaton Woods Elementary was scheduled for renovation since it also has a tremendous overcrowding problem. The question could not be answered.

Senior Services - [Judy Fink, Chair] - Judy Fink reported that Suzy Levy and she made ten signs to inform the community about the upcoming tax workshop sponsored by the Civic Association. She asked for help placing the signs, distributing flyers and with setting up the room the day of the workshop.

Traffic & Streets - [no chair] - no report

Utilities - [Joan Cohen, Chair] - The 'lump' in Chadwick Lane will be resurfaced once the weather improves and the Viers Mill service road should be restored for public use by the end of February.

Website - [no Chair] Carla Steinborn announced that she was resigning from the committee. She mentioned that she and Mike Salay felt stymied by the approval of content

protocols. A discussion followed and it was decided to postpone the matter for further review.

OLD BUSINESS:

Blair Ewing/English Manor/Bus Depot Update: Jamison Adcock reported that he and others testified at the 15 January County Council meeting, that he has met with most of the County Council members and that the press has provided coverage; all resulting now in a much better reception of the community's concerns by the County Council. Council member Marc Elrich spoke in favor of the county retaining the current depot site until a suitable replacement is built, notwithstanding the currently agreed upon date to vacate the property. Jamison also reported that the School Board's Education Committee requested a feasibility study including other options to what is currently proposed. He also said the Board of Education contacted him on input for alternate depot locations. President Ryan thanked Jamison for his heroic efforts on behalf of the organization in this regard.

Vitro/BAE Site Update: President Ryan reported that she testified on behalf of the Civic Association and other Board members testified as individuals at the County Council's 3 February hearing on the Minor Master Plan Amendment on behalf of the Civic Association. A Council subcommittee will discuss the matter at a meeting on 2 March. Sol Levy pointed out that the period for public comment to the Council would close Friday 13 February. Steve Cohen announced that he was contacted by Council member Hans Riemer for Steve's opinion about having a large grocery store of 90,000 square feet at the site. Steve requested more information from Councilmember Riemer and this resulted in more specific input from Councilmember Riemer that CRN zoning plus a Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) that would permit a grocery store larger than 50,000 square feet might be an option. Steve did not offer any comments regarding Councilmember Riemer's suggestion of "90,000 square feet".

"Welcome to Aspen Hill" signs: Judy Tankersley and Carol Petzold spoke about the two signs provided by the Civic Association welcoming drivers to our community. The signs were erected about 15 years ago at Parkland Drive near Viers Mill Road and at Aspen Hill Road and Georgia Avenue. The one near Viers Mill Road has been taken down. The one at Georgia Avenue was repainted in the fall of 2014. A discussion was held about any continued desire for involvement for this by the Civic Association. Judy Tankersley and Sheila Convery volunteered to investigate

sign permitting and to seek information on the costs involved.

Proposal for a Social & Events Committee: Sheila Convery moved the Board of Directors add this committee as a way to build community identity and spirit. It was seconded and the vote was unanimously in favor. Sheila Convery, Melissa Ryan and Suzy Levy volunteered to serve on the committee. It was mentioned that non-Board members should be encouraged to also volunteer.

NEW BUSINESS:

Incorporation Status: Steve Cohen spoke in favor of renewing the organization's lapsed incorporation status to provide limited liability for Board members, to ensure name retention and to prevent any tax consequences. Though the Civic Association pays \$400-\$500 a year for insurance, it would be the smart thing to do. He moved that incorporation be renewed. President Ryan amended the motion to include that the cost of \$100 for doing so be included. The amended motion was passed unanimously. Steve mentioned that he would file the required four years of tax reports and send in the proper forms. The whole process should take about 8 weeks to be completed. President Ryan thanked Steve for all the work involved in resolving the issue. A question was raised about the tax exempt status of the Civic Association but it could not be answered. Marna Cary suggested that the officers keep a working list of their duties and tasks to leave behind for their eventual successors to prevent accidental lapses in the future.

"Take Pride in Aspen Hill" Pamphlets: Steve Cohen reported that in the past the Civic Association printed a tri-fold pamphlet encouraging community members to be good neighbors by following zoning, parking and other regulations that make Aspen Hill a great place to live. He inquired if the Civic Association wished to re-issue an updated version. Following a discussion it was decided to postpone action.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:06 PM the motion to adjourn was made and passed.

The March meeting is scheduled for Wednesday the 11th at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Clarke
Recording Secretary