

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Ryan at 7:06 P.M. in the Aspen Hill Library.

**CALL OF THE ROLL**

**Present** at the meeting were board members: Jamison Adcock, Don Becker, Steven Becker, Marna Cary, Pat Clarke, Robert Clarke, Steven Cohen, Sheila Convery, Susan Eisendrath, Judy Fink, Sol Levy, Suzy Levy, Linda NeCastro-Pastel, Carol Petzold, Walter Petzold, Monica Reyes-Dame, Selene Robinson, Melissa Ryan, Michael Salay, Bill Shelton, Carla Steinborn, and Kris Vaitkus.

**Absent** from the meeting were board members: Joan Cohen, Gail Cooper, Sharon Dean, Rusty Embrey, Patricia King, Jiri Malek, Alexandra Minckler, JoAnna Nasios, Sam Nasios, Roselia Rodriguez, Jane Salzano and Judy Tankersley.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the February 11, 2015 meeting were approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

Balance as of 1 February 2015: \$5,081.27  
Income: \$335.00 from membership dues  
Expenditures for February: \$136.98  
    Montgomery County Civic Federation Dues - \$35.00  
    Website 12/19/14 - 2/19/15 - \$1.98  
    MD Department of Assessments and Taxation - \$100.00  
Petty Cash 2/1/15: \$78.00  
    Website for February - \$0.99  
Petty Cash Balance 2/28/15: \$77.01  
Balance as of 28 February 2015: \$5,278.30

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership chair Sheila Convery reported that the current membership stands at 177 persons, an increase of some 30 persons who had been previous members. Sheila thanked Joanne Nasios for her help with the mailings to them. The success of the mailings led to a discussion regarding a mass community mailing and the best way to secure the residential addresses. The matter was referred to the Membership Committee for further investigation.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

**Environment** - [Gail Cooper & Susan Eisendrath, Co-Chairs]

Susan announced that there is a Rock Creek streambed cleanup scheduled for Saturday April 11th sponsored by the Montgomery County Parks Department. She requested that the Civic Association donate \$100 to

provide **signs**, apples and other snacks for our community volunteers. The motion was made and passed.

## The following was submitted by report:

Susan contacted Ms. Ho-Ching Fong, Watershed Planner, Montgomery County MD, Department of Environmental Protection, and Ms. Fong reported that they are doing a Green Streets project in Wheaton Woods and offered to provide an update on that project and the Manor Woods Green Streets project. Susan requested a report on the following information: the reason for the projects and the goals (including the benefits to the community) of the projects, the areas that will be in the project (with maps), the type of work that will be done (examples of the improvements-including examples of successfully completed projects), the timeframe for the implementation, any information on upcoming informational meetings, and who to contact for more information. The intention is to both update the Board and Membership by circulating the information and posting it on the website.

Linda NeCastro contacted U of MD Master Gardeners for speakers regarding deer adverse plants targeted for homeowners in the neighborhood. She's shooting for a spring timeframe and was thinking that this event would be a community event offered to Aspen Hill Civic Association membership first then everyone else to be held in the library. She'd like to get some feedback regarding the plans so she can set something up.

Walt Petzold reported that the Storm Water Management tax repeal has not gotten anywhere. The restriction on other uses of the Chesapeake Bay Trust fund seems to be moving along.

**The Montgomery County  
GreenFest will be held  
Saturday 28 March, 11 a.m. -  
4 p.m. at Montgomery  
College in Takoma Park and  
at Jessup Blair Local Park  
visit their website at:  
[http://montgomerycountygreenfest  
.org/schedule/](http://montgomerycountygreenfest.org/schedule/)**

**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:

- Free Homework Help and Family Learning Nights, Wednesdays, 4:00-7:00 PM, on 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, 3/17.
- Teen Writing Club, ages 11-18, Mondays 6:15-7:45 pm, March 23, April 27, and May 18.
- For Babies Only, songs, rhymes, and stories for children up to 18 months on 28 March.
- Alzheimer's Disease, Know the 10 Signs, Saturday, March 21 from 2 to 4 p.m.
- Math Club for children grades K-2, Fridays 4:45-5:45 from 17 April through 5 June. Must sign up at the children's desk.
- For a complete list of library activities visit:  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library>

**Newsletter** - [no Chair] - Carla Steinborn questioned why a newsletter was necessary to have in addition to a website. Steve Cohen pointed out that 34 current members have not provided email addresses and probably do not have computer access. A discussion followed that seemed to favor putting out a 2-4 page newsletter twice a year that could appear on the website as well having it mailed to those without email.

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

**Recycling & Trash** - [Carla Steinborn, Chair] - no report

**Schools** - [Jiri Malek, Chair] - no report

**Senior Services** - [Judy Fink, Chair] - Judy Fink reported that signs have been printed and placed advertising the upcoming income tax workshop on the afternoon of 17 March at the Library. She thanked those who helped with the signs. She also requested help that day at 1:00 pm with arranging the room.

**Social & Events** - [Sheila Convery, Chair] - no report

**Traffic & Streets** - [no chair] - Steven Becker reported that he received a letter from the Office of the Director for MCDOT indicating that he and Sharon Dean would not be serving on the committee dealing with the Georgia Avenue Bus Rapid Transit project since it has been cancelled.

Suzy Levy asked if anyone knew the purpose for the work being done on Russett Road. Susan Eisendrath said she thought it was for a sewer line. It was suggested that perhaps Joan Cohen of the Utilities Committee could inquire.

**Utilities** - [Joan Cohen, Chair] - Joan submitted the following:

The weather has been awful. Record cold temps in February, lowest overall in 35 years, and lots of frozen ground and snow. Therefore, WSSC projects are significantly delayed. The Chadwick Lane "hump" will be repaired in March as soon as the weather breaks ... consistently. Re the Viers Mill Service Road - From the Construction Manager:

The contractor is making a tie-in 9 March at Turkey Branch Pkwy and the night of 11 March at Parkland Drive and Robindale Drive, weather pending. Next we have the tie-ins of the 20-inch and 24-inch mains in front of Saint Jude Church. So far the contractor has not scheduled these. Maybe next week at the earliest. Once these are finished the remaining work will be punch-listed and then completed. Donald Barrett from WSSC anticipates this being completed late April. Then he has to schedule the milling and overlay which is being done by WSSC. Hopefully all will be wrapped up by the beginning of June.

**Website** - [no Chair] President Ryan spoke of some desired basics for the organization's information to be presented to the membership and the community. Carla Steinborn spoke to the concern for the content being reviewed and approved. She said that the mechanics of the posting of that content was not a problem. The purpose of the committee was to display content, not originate it. She also spoke to the ownership of the domain name. It is currently in her name and she is not comfortable with that. Mike Salay volunteered to help but indicated he would not do it alone. Carla indicated that she would help him.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Bauer Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements.** Sheila Convery was contacted by Mr. Daniel O'Neil regarding a letter of support from the Civic Association that was to have been sent in the Summer of 2013 supporting improvements at Bauer Drive and Greenspan Lane and at Bauer Drive and Russet Road. The Civic Association had voted to support the project but the letter was not received by the proper authorities so the project had languished. After determining that the Civic Association had voted to support the project, Corresponding Secretary Convery sent a letter indicating such to the proper authorities via email on 25 February.

**Incorporation Status:** Steve Cohen reported that all the necessary paper work and funds for reinstatement of incorporation status were sent to the state authorities on 13 February. Receipt was acknowledged on 19 February. The process is expected to take up to eight weeks.

**Blair Ewing/English Manor/Bus Depot Update:** Jamison Adcock reported that he and others have had further meetings with the authorities involved. The County Council seems to now be aware of the community's concerns. In a meeting with County Executive Ike Leggett, Jamison and Carol Petzold they were told it is an issue to be resolved by the school board. Both Jamison and Carol pointed out that the Maryland School Board needed to approve the demolition of a school and that monies the state put into the building would need to be paid back. This would not be smart to do at a time when more state

funds for schools are being sought. So matters seem to be in the hands of the county school board. The County Council has set March 17th for a decision on declaring the current bus depot property no longer needed - an action not assured. It is also the case that alternate properties other than the Ewing site are being considered.

**Vitro/BAE Site Update:** Jamison Adcock reported that tucked in with the CRT rezoning proposal is a DOT provision to widen Aspen Hill Road to four lanes from Connecticut Avenue to Frankfort Drive and possibly to Parkland Drive. This provision had not been part of the previous discussions. When the planning department was questioned about this Carla Steinborn reported the response was that this mitigation action was in response to the community's complaints regarding traffic congestion. Jamison Adcock indicated that he sent a letter of protest to the County Council regarding the failure to notify the Civic Association of proposed major road changes in the community.

**"Welcome to Aspen Hill" signs:** Sheila Convery reported that Judy Tankersley had made a lot of phone calls inquiring about permitting. The bottom line is that the county now discourages signs on public rights of way by charging \$300 for each sign permit. That amount does not include the cost of sign fabrication and installation. Carol Petzold pointed out that the existing sign at Georgia Avenue and Aspen Hill Road is in good shape and does not require attention at this time. Following a discussion, a motion to take no further action regarding welcoming signs was passed.

**Take Pride in Aspen Hill Pamphlets:** Selene Robinson indicated that she had updated/revised/removed a lot of the information provided on the most recent pamphlet. A brief discussion took place on how to best make this information available to the community. No decision was made.

**The Purchase of 25 New meeting/event signs:** President Ryan reported that permission to purchase the signs had been sought from the Board by email because of a time factor. The final email tally was 20 in favor, 4 opposed and 10 abstentions. At the request of Treasurer Steve Cohen it was agreed that the process of soliciting expenditure

permission by email will be put on the agenda for the April meeting.



## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**A Membership Directory:** Treasurer Steve Cohen reported that he and Membership Chair Sheila Convery have organized a new data base that includes all current members. The question was raised about who should have access to this information. A brief discussion did not result in any change to the current situation.

**The April General Membership Meeting Agenda:** Selene Robinson suggested a representative from the county Homeland Security Department. Judy Fink suggested Donald Barrett from WSSC, a 4th District police spokesperson and someone from the county's office of code enforcement.

**The Mid-County Advisory Committee:** President Ryan related that she was made aware that there was an anticipated opening occurring soon and she was seeking persons who might be interested in representing Aspen Hill on this advisory committee to the County Executive. Carol Petzold suggested Judy Tankersley might be interested. The matter was left open for anyone else to come forward or nominate a candidate.

**Board Meeting Cancellation Policy:** Treasurer Steve Cohen reported that the Library's closure decision for inclement weather did not necessarily correspond with that of the schools. Since our Board has been following the school system's decision, it might result in the forfeiture of our room use rental payment. Following a discussion it was decided by a vote to keep the existing policy of relying on the school system actions to decide when our meetings should be cancelled.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:13 PM the motion to adjourn was made and passed.

The April meeting is scheduled for Wednesday the 8th at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert Clarke  
Recording Secretary

