

# **MINUTES**

**THE ASPEN HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**9 September 2015**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Ryan at 7:00 P.M. in the Aspen Hill Library.

## **CALL OF THE ROLL**

**Present** at the meeting were board members: Don Becker, Steven Becker, Pat Clarke, Robert Clarke, Joan Cohen, Steven Cohen, Sheila Convery, Susan Eisendrath, Sol Levy, Suzy Levy, Carol Petzold, Walter Petzold, Monica Reyes-Dame, Selene Robinson, Melissa Ryan, Jane Salzano, and Judy Tankersley.

**Absent** from the meeting were board members: Jamison Adcock, Marna Cary, Gail Cooper, Sharon Dean, Rusty Embrey, Judy Fink, Patricia King, Jiri Malek, Alexandra Minckler, JoAnna Nasios, Sam Nasios, Linda NeCastro-Pastel, Roselia Rodriguez, Michael Salay, Bill Shelton, Carla Steinborn and Kris Vaitkus.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the June 10, 2015 meeting were approved.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT :**

Treasurer Steven Cohen presented the financial report for 1 June through 31 August 2015, see the accompanying document.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Membership chair Sheila Convery reported that the current membership stands at 214 persons [67 individuals and 78 family members].

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Code Enforcement** - [Sharon Dean, Chair] - President Ryan conveyed a message from Ms. Dean that it is a violation to park on county property usually located between the sidewalk and the curb.

**Community Outreach** - [Monica Reyes-Dame, Chair] - Sol Levy indicated that there was no report

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

- Susan Eisendrath reported that she will contact PEPCO this fall to arrange a presentation on energy saving devices and programs.
- She also mentioned that the proposed County Council pesticide legislation is still under consideration with the Transportation and Environment Committee holding a hearing on 17 September. More information can be found at [http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2014/Packets/20141028\\_4C.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2014/Packets/20141028_4C.pdf)
- The Exelon and PEPCO merger is still under consideration.
- The International Green Construction Code is currently on hold.
- The Department of Environmental Protection is sponsoring a Tree Planting Program in which the county will plant trees for free. For information see <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Tree/Tree-request.html>

**Fire & EMS** - [Judy Tankersley, Chair] - Judy Tankersley brought to the Boards attention recent press articles that indicated that in the future there is expected to be a growth in EMS services along side a decline in the need for fire services.

**Library** - [Kris Vaitkus, Chair] - President Ryan conveyed a report from Kris Vaitkus highlighting four upcoming activities at the Aspen Hill Library:

- 26 September, The 24th annual Aspen Hill Community Festival, 11:00 to 3:30
- 17 October, the Used Book Sale, 10:00-4:00
- 21 & 22 October, Jazz Concert, 7:30-9:30
- 21 October, Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, 5:30-6:30

For more information see: <http://www.folmc.org/Aspen Hill> or <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/aspenhill.html>

Sol Levy and Carol Petzold suggested sending representatives to the different functions.

**Newsletter** - [no Chair] - Melissa Ryan indicated that one would be sent out before the meeting in October. She requested suggestions for content.

**Policing & Crime** - [Jane Salzano, Chair] - Jane Salzano indicated that she has invited District 4 police to send a speaker to the October 28th General Membership Meeting.

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

**Schools** - [Jiri Malek, Chair] - Melissa Ryan reported that community members were sponsoring a community picnic at English Manor Elementary School in hopes of drumming up support for re-opening the school and for the creation of a Neighborhood Watch. Some local politicians are expected to attend. It was also mentioned that Wheaton Woods Elementary School will undergo an expansion to be completed by 2017.

**Senior Services** - [Judy Fink, Chair] - no report.

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

**Traffic & Streets** - [no chair] - no report.

- Steve Becker mentioned that there is a problem with west bound trash trucks on Aspen Hill Road on Thursday mornings during rush hours. He would look into the matter and report back about it.
- Sheila Convery reported that there recently was a severe motorcycle accident at Parkland Drive and Aspen Hill Road.

**Utilities** - [Joan Cohen, Chair] - Joan Cohen reported that most of the WSSC paving of the streets disturbed by its recent water and sewer upgrades is finished. She also noted that the Russet Road project [C16003A11] is on going with no estimated completion date.

Joan has inquired about the PEPCO tree trimming because she thinks they have been too drastic in their actions. She was told that Montgomery County has given PEPCO permission to do what they think is necessary with an arborists approval.

**Website** - [no Chair] President Ryan thanked Mike Salay for his efforts to square away our hosting problems and for getting our website up and running.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**October General Membership Meeting Speakers:** Judy

Tankersley suggested someone speak about the English Manor situation. Suzy Levy inquired about the placement of the meeting notice signs.

**Vitro/BAE Site Update:** Sol Levy reported that he was notified by Andrea Gillis, Senior Planner for Area 2 of the county planning board, that the County Council ratified the Minor Master Plan Amendment decisions on July 21st. He also mentioned that the start of the Aspen Hill Master Plan review process would begin February 2016. A discussion of our role in the process ensued. It was decided that we would wait to see how the process unfolds

before seeking to get involved. He also mentioned that the property owner has not submitted any proposals for its use.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**The Articles of Incorporation:** Treasurer Steve Cohen reported that a committee met during the summer to revise the 2002 Articles of Incorporation. The product of the committee's efforts was presented for discussion. The thrust of the effort was to present language in support of our classification as a 501 (c) 4 corporation. During that discussion, the committee's product was amended and adopted for presentation to the general membership at a later date. Steve indicated that he will be providing Board members a copy of that agreed-to document.

**Civic Federation Dues:** The \$35.00 dues year for that organization runs from July through the end of June. Sheila Convery moved that we renew our membership. Judy Tankersley seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

**Bylaws:** Because of the hour discussion of proposed Bylaws changes was postponed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:30 p.m. the motion to adjourn was made and passed.

The remaining meetings for 2015 will take place October 28, November 12 and December 9. All will start at 7:00 p.m. except for the General Membership Meeting in October that will start at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert Clarke  
Recording Secretary