

# **MINUTES**

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

**9 December 2015**

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by President Jamison Adcock at 7:01 P.M. in the Aspen Hill Library.

## **CALL OF THE ROLL:**

**Present** at the meeting were board members: Jamison Adcock, Marna Cary, KC Chronopoulos, Robert Clarke, Joan Cohen, Steve Cohen, Sheila Convery, Gail Cooper, JoAnna Nasios, Sam Nasios, Carol Petzold, Selene Robinson, Melissa Ryan, Michael Salay, Jane Salzano, Carla Steinborn and Judy Tankersley.

**Absent** from the meeting were board members: Sharon Dean, Susan Eisendrath, Judy Fink, Patricia King, Sol Levy, Suzy Levy, Jiri Malek, Linda NeCastro-Pastel, Walter Petzold, Monica Reyes-Dame, Roselia Rodriguez, and Kris Vaitkus

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the November 12, 2015 meeting were approved.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Steven Cohen's financial report for 1 November through 31 November 2015, see the accompanying document.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

Sheila Convery reported that membership is the same as reported in November.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Environment Issues** - No report, no chair

**Government Relations** - Judy Tankersley reported that as a representative to the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board the following items came to their attention:

- Library improvements at the Wheaton Regional Library and the refresh of the Aspen Hill Library will result in both being closed at the same time.
- The Wheaton Triangle re-development project is on track for 2017.
- Zoning issues for North Wheaton [Arcola Avenue to Randolph Road] are currently under discussion.
- A Maryland gerrymandering case is to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Proposed changes to the county liquor board operations are under discussion. She noted that 10 new liquor stores are proposed for the near future.

**The Library Committee** - Member Elliot Chabot, Chairman of the Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee spoke about the upcoming "refresh" to the Aspen Hill Library. He made the following points:

- The library was opened in 1967 and has had only one limited "refreshment" in 1991 that involved painting and new carpet.
- The current plan for the spring 2016 "refreshment" is budgeted to cost \$800,000. In contrast the newer Wheaton Regional Library is to undergo a \$60 million dollar renewal at the same time.
- The County Library Board is numbers driven. Persons entering the Aspen Hill Library by the main entrance are counted and board decisions are based on those numbers even though other entrances go uncounted.
- Shelving is to be lowered during the "refreshment" and it is expected that this will impact the space left for the children's section.
- The Friends of the Aspen Hill Library are concerned about how proposed elimination of storage spaces will impact their storage of books for the twice yearly used book sale.

- There are currently three all-volunteer organizations supporting the Aspen Hill Library: the Library Advisory Board, the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library and the Aspen Hill Garden Club.
- There is a meeting scheduled at the library on 12 December at 11:00 A.M. at which Rita Gale, Deputy Director of Montgomery County Libraries, will discuss the proposed spring 2015 "refresh." All community members are invited to attend.

Judy Fink pointed out that client numbers depend on the resources available for use at the library, implying that if more money was allocated for improvements at "lower numbers" facilities their number of clients would increase.

**Media** - No report. No chair.

**Membership** - Sheila Convery said that the committee would be meeting after the holidays to discuss approaching former members to renew their memberships.

**Neighborhood Relations** - No report, no chair.

**Public Safety** - President Adcock reported that a Neighborhood Watch meeting took place and they are currently organizing and establishing block captains. Another meeting is scheduled for January. Carla Steinborn related two near accident incidents she recently had on Aspen Hill Road and requested that the Board seek a more aggressive police presence and enforcement there. President Adcock said he would follow up with his police department contacts.

**Schools** - President Adcock reported that his attempts to follow up on school board decisions regarding the relocation of the school bus depot have been frustrated by an unresponsive bureaucracy. He indicated he would contact Michael Durso, the new school board president. Judy Tankersley made a seconded and passed motion that the Aspen Hill Civic Association President contact both the school board members and the county council members to express our continued interest in this issue.

**Utilities** - Joan Cohen reported that the paving work on London Lane has been completed. She also said that when she contacted WSSC about the condition of Briarwood Terrace she was told that it was not their responsibility since no sewer or water work took place there. She followed up by contacting the county and reported that the work was

recently completed. She also reported that she is still pursuing the issue of the WSSC replaced speed bumps on Aspen Hill Road between Arctic Avenue and Bardot Street. Carla Steinborn asked Joan to look into telephone/power poles being checked for rot.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

At the request of Jane Salzano, Dominic Quattrocchi, a Planner Coordinator of the Montgomery County Department of Parks, spoke to the Board members regarding the upcoming master plan update for improvements to Wheaton Regional Park. Mr Quattrocchi made the following points:

- It is the most heavily used park facility in the county
- It was opened in 1963, it is comprised of 538 acres and it is broken into five separate recreation areas. It has 11 miles of trails.
- The vintage 1917 carousel currently there will be moved to Clarksburg in 2017. A replacement will be sought.
- The job of the parks department is to ensure resource protection while improving recreation facilities.
- Among the sought for improvements are: improved access among the five different recreation areas; a new main entrance coming from Arcola Avenue; the addition of soccer fields, a group campground, playgrounds, a heart smart trail; all to be ADA compliant.
- At present the parks department is seeking community in-put and comment regarding the master plan up date. Starting in January this can be done by an on-line survey to be found at [www.parkplanning.org](http://www.parkplanning.org)

Judy Lai of the Park Development Commission added that new rest rooms were planned for and all existing ones were to be upgraded to ADA compliance.

When asked about the amount that has been budgeted for the project Mr. Quattrocchi replied that because things were still in the planning phase he could not give an amount but speculated it would probably be

in the vicinity of \$50 million. He finished by saying that the final plans would go to the planning board for approval in October of 2016.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Revision of the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws**

Acting as a committee of the whole, the Board members began a review of the Articles of Incorporation that have been proposed by a special Board committee headed by Jane Salzano. The intention is to have a full Board recommended revision available for action at the May 2016 General Membership Meeting.

Articles One through Three passed as written. Article Four, section (c.) was amended to read "interests" and passed. Article Five was passed as written. Article Six received a lot of discussion regarding "... the Board of Directors who shall elect the officers of the Corporation." Judy Tankersley proposed altering that to have the officers popularly elected by all organization members. It was ultimately decided to keep the originally proposed language.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Because of the late hour it was moved, seconded and passed that further business cease and the meeting was adjourned At 9:22 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 13 January at 7:00 p.m. at the Aspen Hill Library

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert Clarke  
Recording Secretary

<b>ASPEN HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION, Inc.</b>			
			<b>Submitted by</b>

<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>		<b>Steven Cohen</b>	
<b>November 1 - November 30, 2015</b>		<b>Steven Cohen</b>	
		<b>Treasurer</b>	
<b><u>Checking Account - Suntrust</u></b>			
<b><u>xxxx6769</u></b>			
<b>Balance as of November 1, 2015</b>		\$4,417.76	
<b>Income: - November 1 - November 30, 2015</b>			
- Dues		\$306.00	
- Voided check #1073 and check #1074		\$162.44	
<b>Expenses: November 1 - November 30, 2015</b>			
- Rental - Aspen Hill Library mtg room 1/13/16; 2/17/16		\$80.00	
<b>Balance as of November 30, 2015</b>		<b>\$4,806.20</b>	
<b><u>Petty Cash</u></b>			
<b>Balance as of November 1, 2015</b>		\$47.34	
<b>Income: November 1 - November 30, 2015</b>			
		\$0.00	
<b>Expenses: November 1 - November 30, 2015</b>			
		\$0.00	
<b>Balance as of November 30, 2015</b>		<b>\$47.34</b>	
<b>Total Available as of November 30, 2015</b>		<b>\$4,853.54</b>	