

MINUTES

THE ASPEN HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

13 January 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

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

CALL OF THE ROLL:

Present at the meeting were board members: Jamison Adcock, KC Chronopoulos, Robert Clarke, Joan Cohen, Steve Cohen, Sheila Convery, Gail Cooper, Susan Eisendrath, Judy Fink, Sol Levy, Jiri Malek, Sam Nasios, Linda NeCastro-Pastel, Carol Petzold, Monica Reyes-Dame, Selene Robinson, Melissa Ryan, Michael Salay, Jane Salzano, Carla Steinborn, Judy Tankersley and Kris Vaitkus.

Absent from the meeting were board members: Marna Cary, Sharon Dean, Patricia King, Suzy Levy, JoAnna Nasios, Walter Petzold and Roselia Rodriguez.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the 9 December, 2015 meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

For Treasurer Steven Cohen's financial report for 1 December through 31 December 2015 please see page 6. A motion was made and passed to expend \$200 to rent space at the Berman Hebrew Academy for meetings on 16 March, 13 April, 18 May and 8 June, 2016 because the Library is scheduled to be closed for "refreshing."

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Sheila Convery reported that membership stands at 123 members, one more than reported in December.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION:

The remaining portions of the proposed revisions were discussed and altered or amended as agreed. The full revision as amended was then voted upon and unanimously passed. It was suggested and agreed that the Articles be reviewed by a pro bono attorney if possible. Several Board members were delegated to seek out this possible pro bono review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Environment Issues - No chair

- Carol Petzold reminded the Board that the County is offering a free tree planting service.
- Carla Steinborn inquired about her request to have the police enforce the laws regarding cars parking in drive ways blocking the sidewalk. Jamison Adcock replied that he was told by the police that enforcement is complaint driven. The police will only respond to specific complaints.

Government Relations - No chair

- Jane Salzano reported that the Park and Planning Commission has a meeting scheduled for 19 January, 2:30 p.m., at 8787 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20910 to discuss the Master Plan changes for Wheaton Regional Park. Interested persons should attend.

The Library Committee - Marna Cary chair

- Carol Petzold informed the Board that the library would be closed from 1 May 2016 until some time in October for "refreshing."
- She also indicated that the spring used book sale is scheduled for 19 March.
- Lastly she said that the library was sponsoring free Sunday movies at 2:00 p.m. On 24 January: *A Night at the Museum*, and on 28 February: *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*.

Media - No chair.

- Mike Salay said updates to the web page were imminent.

Membership - No chair

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

Neighborhood Relations - No report, Judy Fink chair.

Public Safety - No chair

- President Adcock reported that Neighborhood Watch hopes to grow in the coming months.
- He also mentioned that he has been contacted to be on the newly formed Police Advisory Commission.
- Lastly he indicated he would contact Officer Haydet to seek a more aggressive police presence and enforcement on Aspen Hill Road.

Schools - No chair

- President Adcock said that there is nothing new to report on the permanent relocation of the Crabbs Branch school bus depot. Busses currently there will be disbursed to temporary locations until a new site is selected.
- He also reported that there were no new developments regarding the former English Manor Elementary School site.

Utilities - Joan Cohen chair

- Joan Cohen reported that the issue of the speed bump on Bauer Drive between Arctic Avenue and Bardot Street seems to have been temporarily resolved.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Residential Parking

- Mindy Dunnigan, a resident who lives on London Lane near Heathfield brought a concern to the Board regarding street parking problems caused by over flow parking from the Ridgewood Apartments across Georgia Avenue and by persons parking to use the bus stop. She has contacted the police but the problem has not been resolved. Others mentioned that the same problem also appears elsewhere in our community.

- Sheila Convery mentioned that she had previously looked into the same issue and reported that there were multiple steps to get Montgomery County to establish a restricted parking zone for residents which included the approval of the residents, approval by the civic association, the expenditure of \$250 to get a hearing among other requirements.
- Jamison Adcock said he had raised the issue on Next Door, the local list serve, and got numerous negative reactions to having a restricted zone.
- A general discussion followed. In conclusion, President Adcock indicated that he would contact Officer Hidayat to see what can be done to remedy the situation.

Standing Rules

- Judy Tankersley suggested that since it was so difficult to amend the Bylaws the Board should consider removing some rules from the Bylaws and making them Standing Rules that the Board members could easily change when they felt it necessary. Following a brief discussion it was decided to postpone action until the February meeting that is scheduled to act on changes to the Bylaws.

Family Child Care Expansion

- Amber Primm of Mum's Touch Family Day Care located at Bauer Drive and Woodcrest Drive is seeking approval to expand the number of children she is allowed to care for from 8 to 12. She is currently licensed to provide care for 8 children age 6 weeks to 12 years from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Her neighbors have been notified about this proposed expansion and have no problem with it. She has been denied permission however by Montgomery County Park and Planning because the extra 4 children would make too much noise in their fenced play yard located next to Bauer Drive. She is seeking Civic Association support when she presents her appeal.
- Several Board members who live in her neighborhood spoke in her favor during a general discussion of the issue. At the end of discussion it was decided to provide a letter in support for her appeal.

Pedestrian Safety

- In response to the recent tragic death of a bicyclist in the pedestrian crossing on Viers Mill Road at the Matthew Henson Trail, Sheila Convery contacted Cedric Ward, Maryland State Director of the Office of Traffic and Safety for our region, to inquire about safety improvements for this location. She was told that designs were currently being drafted and they would include flashing lights and overhead signage. Installation is scheduled for this spring.

Parkland Middle School Cell Tower

- President Adcock reported that there is a current proposal to install a 104 feet tall cell tower 25 feet from the Parkland Middle School building and that a meeting held by agents of Verizon Wireless is scheduled for Thursday 28 January at 7:00 p.m. for members of the community to ask any questions they may have about the proposed installation and raise any concerns.
- Following a general discussion of the issue and the repercussions involved it was decided that a letter be sent by Recording

Secretary Sheila Convery to the parties involved in the proposal objecting to the fact the Civic Association was not notified about the proposal and expressing our deep concerns about it.

Candidates Forums

- Carol Petzold announced that the Aspen Hill Civic Association, along with the Friends of the Aspen Hill Library and the Library Advisory Committee would be co-sponsoring a candidate forum for the 9 District 8 Congressional primary election candidates on Wednesday 27 January at 7:30 p.m. in the library meeting room. She requested help setting up the room - meet at 6:30. Sheila Convery volunteered to help provide candidate name cards, Jamison Adcock and Judy Tankersley volunteered to help with timing, Selena Robinson volunteered to provide bottled water, and volunteering to pick up audience question cards were Sam Nasios, Selene Robinson, Sol Levy and Jiri Malek.
- In the discussion about whether to sponsor a District 6 Congressional candidate forum or a MCPS school board forum no consensus was reached.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Montgomery County Charter Review Committee will be meeting on 20 January at 7:30 p.m. at the County Council offices, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 17 February at 7:00 p.m. at the Aspen Hill Library

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Clarke
Recording Secretary

**ASPEN HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION,
Inc.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT
December 1 - December 31, 2015**

Submitted by
**Steven
Cohen**

Steven Cohen
Treasurer

Checking Account - Suntrust xxxx6769

Balance as of December 1, 2015 \$4,806.20

Income: - December 1 - December 31, 2015 \$0.00

Expenses: December 1 - December 31, 2015 \$0.00

Balance as of December 31, 2015 \$4,806.20

Petty Cash

Balance as of December 1, 2015 \$47.34

Income: December 1 - December 31, 2015 \$0.00

Expenses: December 1 - December 31, 2015 \$0.00

Balance as of December 31, 2015 \$47.34

**Total Available as of December 31,
2015** \$4,853.54
