

MINUTES

THE ASPEN HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

8 June 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by President Jamison Adcock at 7:05 P.M. at the Berman Academy.

CALL OF THE ROLL:

Present at the meeting were board members: Jamison Adcock, Marna Cary, KC Chronopoulos, Robert Clarke, Sheila Convery, Gail Cooper, Sharon Dean, Susan Eisendrath, Judy Fink, Sol Levy, Suzy Levy, Linda NeCastro-Pastel, Carol Petzold, Walter Petzold, Monica Reyes-Dame, Selene Robinson, Melissa Ryan, Carla Steinborn, and Judy Tankersley.

Absent from the meeting were board members: Joan Cohen, Steve Cohen, Patricia King, Jiri Malek, JoAnna Nasios, Sam Nasios, Roselia Rodriguez, Michael Salay, Jane Salzano, Rena Samuel, and Kris Vaitkus.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the 18 May 2016 meeting were approved as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

For Treasurer Steven Cohen's financial report for 1 May through 31 May 2016 please see the last page.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Sheila Convery reported that membership stands at 159 members, an increase of 17, half coming from renewals and half new members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Environment Issues - No chair, no report

Government Relations - No chair

- Judy Tankersley reported that she attended the May meeting of the Mid County Citizens' Advisory Board at which a long discussion was held on proposed bus rapid transit programs.
- She also mentioned that the next meeting will be held 7:00 pm June 21st at the Mid County Community Center off Layhill Road at 2424 Reddie Drive. The main topic will be a presentation on the Commission for Women.
- Lastly it was recommended that members sign up for the digital *Mid County News* at: <http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001FCkP-cZiSO7IHibpEyVmhdT-Fu6KXwN2>

The Library Committee - Marna Cary chair

- Marna Cary reported that the library will **not** be closed for "refreshing" at the times reported earlier. The new start date will be sometime after the November elections.
- Seven summer reading programs will run from June 18th through July 12th. These programs are funded by both the County Friends of the Library and the Aspen Hill Friends of the Library. For information on this and other activities see: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/aspenhill.html>
- On June 18th there will be an all day Caribbean-American Heritage celebration.

Media - No chair. Melissa Ryan reported that Mike Salay is working on updating the organization's website.

Membership - No chair. No report

Neighborhood Relations - Judy Fink chair.

- Judy Fink suggested that the association invite representatives of "Rebuilding Together" to speak at a General Membership Meeting about their efforts to help needy neighbors with small home improvement construction projects.
- Melissa Ryan suggested that committee chairs speak at General Membership Meetings to encourage members to get involved in their committee's efforts to improve the community.

- Judy Tankersley informed members that any home remodeling that includes handicap accessibility improvements could be eligible for county tax credits.

Public Safety - No chair

- Jamison Adcock reported that his 24 February letter to the county in support of a new crosswalk at Arctic Avenue and Oriental Street has still not merited a reply.
- Sharon Dean reported that her code enforcement request about the tall grass at the former Vitro site has resulted in mowing. She also mentioned that she has noticed that the Wheaton Woods area has increased parking problems with cars parked facing the wrong way or on the county right of way.

Schools - No chair

- President Adcock said that the property tax rate has been raised 9% with the extra funds purposed for education.
- He also reported that the current plan for the former English Manor Elementary School site to be turned into administrative offices for the Infant and Toddlers Program has not yet been finalized.
- He also mentioned that the bus depot relocation effort currently has three sites under consideration. The Avery Road site, the Carver site, and one on Westmore Road in Lincoln Park. The County Council has a work session on this scheduled for the 21st of June. A discussion followed.
- Lastly he said that the association should encourage volunteerism in the schools.

Utilities - Joan Cohen chair

- Jamison Adcock reported that Pepco is seeking a 10% rate hike and that he is looking into the solar option.
- Sharon Dean mentioned that County Council member Roger Berliner has organized an on line petition in opposition to the rate increase. A discussion followed on how to present this information to members in a neutral fashion since the Board has not taken a position on the matter. Consensus was reached with the statement that: The AHCA inform the community about the proposed Pepco 10% rate hike.
- Carol Petzold said she has learned that the Montgomery County Department of Transportation will be renovating streets and sidewalks during the next year in the English Manor neighborhood. Carla Steinborn inquired if anyone else had experienced her worsening cell reception. No one had.

OLD BUSINESS: - None

NEW BUSINESS:

- President Adcock spoke about the proposed rock crushing operation to be located on Southlawn Lane. Its purpose is to

serve the concrete establishments at that location as well as concrete from construction projects in the area. He mentioned that there will be hearings in the fall.

- Suzy Levy moved that the AHCA Board supports the Manor Lake Civic Association letter to the county and state regarding prohibiting the use of Jake Brakes on Norbeck Road with the amendments proposed by Carol Petzold. The motion passed.
- President Adcock encouraged committee members to remain active during the summer hiatus.
- Monica Reyes-Dame spoke about her opposition to the county's plans for rain gardens in the Wheaton Woods community. She mentioned that they only seem to be intended for the poorer county communities. She said she has already spoken with 60 households about the issue and plans on speaking to 400 in total. A discussion followed. Jamison Adcock mentioned that he had a communication indicating that there will be two events about this by the agency responsible later this summer, a presentation/meeting and a community walk. Carla Steinborn suggested that Monica be armed with specific questions regarding her concerns for this meeting. Suzy Levy requested that Jamison Adcock attempt to have the events postponed to the fall when more residents would be available.
- Lastly, President Adcock announced that Councilmember Hans Riemer will be holding the Third Annual Great MoCo Bike Summit to discuss current bicycle issues and future projects. It is to be held June 18th from 10:00 AM until Noon in the 3rd Floor Hearing Room at the Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Clarke
Recording Secretary

**ASPEN HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION,
Inc.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

May 1 - May 31, 2016

**Submitted by
Steven
Cohen**

**Steven Cohen
Treasurer**

Checking Account - Suntrust xxxx6769

Balance as of May 1, 2016 \$4,635.20

Income: May 1 - May 31, 2016

Dues \$141.00

Expenses: May 1 - May 31, 2016

Repay Treasurer for AH Library room rental -
5/18/2016 (\$40.00)

Repay Corresponding Secretary for office supplies (\$32.98)

Balance as of May 31, 2016 **\$4,703.22**

Petty Cash

Balance as of May 1, 2016 \$47.34

Income: May 1 - May 31, 2016 \$0.00

Expenses: May 1 - May 31, 2016 \$0.00

Balance as of May 31, 2016 **\$47.34**

Total Available as of May 31, 2016 **\$4,750.56**

Aspen Hill Civic Association Neighborhood Relations Meeting

May 25, 2016; 7:30 p.m.

The Committee met at the home of Suzy and Sol Levy.

In attendance: K.C. Chronopoulos; Judy Fink, Chairperson; Suzy Levy; Sol Levy; Selene Robinson.

Absent: Monica Dame; Marian Hallen; Linda NeCastro-Pastel, Melissa Ryan.

Committee Purpose: The committee met to define its purpose, discussing specific projects and ideas that would improve the quality of living in Aspen Hill.

To that end, the Committee will coordinate information on projects and program plans for posting on the AHCA website, as well as other committees which may have overlapping interest, such as the AHCA Media Committee, the AHCA Outreach Committee, for maximum communication and information dissemination of events within the Neighborhood Relations Committee scope. The following projects and ideas were proposed:

1. Aging-in-Place: Projects to help homeowners maintain their property (such as partnering with Rebuilding Together).
2. Invite a Montgomery County Master Gardener to give a presentation. The presentation should be after completion of the Aspen Hill Library "Refresh."
3. Provide residents of Aspen Hill information and assistance about the Homeowner Property Tax Credit Program.

The Committee decided that the first project for discussion, at the AHCA Board meeting on June 8, will be Rebuilding Together Montgomery County.

The Committee adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

