

## Minutes of the AHCA Board Meeting, 8 February 2017

1. **Call to Order:** 7:05pm

2. **Call of the Roll:** Present were Jamison Adcock, Marna Cary, Judy Fink, Sol Levy, Suzy Levy, Jiri Malek, Carol Petzold, Walter Petzold, Monica Reyes-Dame, Carla Steinborn, Judy Tankersley

Absent were Joan Beerweiler, Steven Cohen, Sheila Convery, Sharon Dean, JoAnna Nasios, Sam Nasios, Linda NeCastro-Pastel, Melissa Ryan, Michael Salay, Jane Salzano, Rena Samuel

3. **Approval of the January 2017 Meeting Minutes:** The minutes were approved with one change. On the second page, the phrase "Neighborhood Relations" was changed to "Government Relations."

4. **Treasurer's Report** See attached.

5. **Membership Report.** Membership is now 57 (one new member). Also the website now has the new membership form.

### 6. **Committee Reports**

A. Environmental Issues [environment, & refuse]: No report. Did not meet.

B. Government Relations: Judy Tankersley reported on the activities of the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB). A major issue is County plans related to Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). The MD586 (Viers Mill) BRT Draft Corridor Study Report is now available. It can be found on the Maryland State Highway Administration website.

BRT will come before the Council in the Spring after DOT makes its recommendation. The one for Rt. 29 is the most likely because of the Wheaton redevelopment. The MD586 one is ahead of the one for Rt. 355.

The Board raised basically the same issues we've heard from citizens.

On Tuesday Feb. 21 meeting of the MCCAB the speaker will be Casey Anderson of Park and Planning. This will be at the Mid-County Regional Services Center on Reedy Dr. in Wheaton.

There will be a meeting on Feb. 22 regarding the Viers Mill Corridor Study Plan. It will be at the Sargent Shriver Elementary School in Silver Spring (12518 Greenly Street). [The MD586 (Viers Mill) BRT Draft Corridor Study Report is now available. It can be found on the Maryland State Highway Administration website.]

C. Library: Carol Petzold reported that renovation of the Aspen Hill Library is on schedule. Regarding memorabilia from the first class at Admiral Peary School, there is a picture of the class but names of those pictured are needed to caption it.

D. Media [newsletter, website & social media]: No report.

E. Membership Relations [membership & social events]: The committee is working on membership ideas. Melissa distributed a handout with proposals that are under consideration. These include:

1. Change the membership cycle so that the dues year runs from January 1 to December 31. Every AHCA fall newsletter could then include a copy of the membership form and a reminder to pay dues for the following year.
2. Mail membership forms and letter summarizing activities and accomplishments to former members who have not yet paid for 2017.
3. Create a contact list of members who are willing to conduct outreach and develop outreach tools and practices.
4. Conduct a spring door-knocking campaign to educate residents about AHCA, with particular outreach to parts of Aspen Hill that are underrepresented in AHCA.
5. Ask Board members to call on 15-20 neighbors to discuss AHCS's activities and encourage membership.
6. Hold a community event to attract new members. This could be an Aspen Hill "Fair" at the Aspen Hill Library Parking Lot, or the Bauer Center playground, or the church lot next to the Nasios home. Or it could be an indoor even such as a community potluck in a church or school. This could possibly be a themed event such as "Celebrate Aspen Hill's Diversity."

F. Neighborhood Relations [community outreach & senior services]:

The Tax Workshop was successful.

There was a report on the mother who was injured and lost a leg after being struck by a reckless driver on Parkland Drive while she was loading her infant daughter into her car. Jane Salzano and Joan Beerweiler visited the young mother, Lisseth, to help her celebrate her baby Sophia's first birthday, and took presents including five baby outfits, five toys, a birthday cake, a Giant gift card, and more. Monica Dame also worked hard to help out. More than \$9,000 has been raised through a Go Fund Me site. The immediate objective was to show that her neighbors care and to provide

support to the young mother, who has lost one leg above the knee, with the other leg broken in multiple places, and to let her know that she will not face the long road to recovery alone.

G. Public Safety: No report.

H. Schools: No report.

I. Utilities: No report.

## **7. Old Business**

**Playgrounds:** The Berman Academy seems like the best fit. There will be a Berman Academy Build Day on Wednesday March 15, 7:45am to 2:30pm. They are asking for volunteers to help. Additional information can be found on the Berman Academy website. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vOO39hZdMc>. To volunteer, go to [http://www.mjbha.org/Inside\\_Berman/B\\_Playful\\_Volunteer\\_Form.cfm](http://www.mjbha.org/Inside_Berman/B_Playful_Volunteer_Form.cfm).

## **8. New Business**

A. Wheaton Woods Pool Issues. There was a presentation and a lengthy discussion of the Wheaton Woods Pool. The question was whether it would be able to open this year. Basically, the pool needs safety repairs that will be very expensive and the plan was to sell an adjoining piece of property to raise the money. There were interested developers but the plan fell through when the County said the sidewalk would have to be widened before any new "development" could be built.

However, this new "development" would be only four houses and the widened sidewalk would connect to sidewalks that are *not* widened. This issue is still open but since the meeting there have been discussions with inspectors and at present it looks like the pool will be able to be open this year provided that it provide a plan for remedy of all deficiencies.

### B. Bills Regarding Pedestrian & Bicyclist Safety

Maryland Senate Bill 337 would protect bikers while riding across (not just while walking their bikes). Senate Bill 338 and House Bill 578 would allow signals on state roads in places where there is no crosswalk (like the Viers Mill crossing where two cyclists have died).

A motion was made to have the President write letters of support for SB 338 and HB 578 to the Chair of the Judiciary in the Senate and of the Environment and Transportation Committee in the House. The motion passed with one abstention and one no vote.

C. Rats in the Area Members commented on this and compared notes on the problem. No proposals are made at this time.

**9. Announcements**

Our next meeting will be held this Wednesday, March 8, at 7pm at Marna Carey's home. The address is 14401 Briarwood Terrace.

**10. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.



