

Minutes of AHCA Board Meeting, March 8, 2017

1. Call to Order: 7:07pm

2. Call of the Roll

Present: Jamison Adcock, Marna Cary, Sheila Convery, Judy Fink, Sol Levy, JoAnna Nasios, Sam Nasios, Melissa Ryan, Michael Salay, Jane Salzano, Carla Steinborn, Judy Tankersley

Absent: Joan Beerweiler, Steven Cohen, Sharon Dean, Suzy Levy, Jiri Malek, Linda NeCastro-Pastel, Carol Petzold, Walter Petzold, Monica Reyes-Dame, Rena Samuel

3. Approval of the February 2017 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were accepted as amended.

4. Treasurer's Report:

We have three new members. This means we have \$4763.74 on hand, or \$4,834.08 including petty cash.

5. Membership Report: We currently have 59 members. For more information on membership activities, see the Membership Committee report below.

6. Committee Reports

6 A. Environmental Issues [environment, & refuse]: No report

6 B. Government Relations

Report from Judy Tankersley: The Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) met in February. Casey Anderson (head of the MoCo Planning Board) was expected but was not present. However the Parks department was well represented. The update of the Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan is off the front burner. There is a big public input effort. There is a Web survey. Issues involve local parks, e.g., “right parks in the right places,” parks in mixed-use and high-density areas, capital funding long-term. To find it you can google “montgomery parks.org open town hall” or go to www.peakdemocracy.com. There was a downcounty meeting on the 15th at the Montgomery County Regional Office.

The County budget comes out this month (March). Leggett will introduce it.

Nominations for the award program of MCCAB were due the 13th. As members may know, the Aspen Hill Homeowners Group won an award last year.

The Town Center got into the master plan even though the County may or may not have a space in Olney.

The Veirs Mill Corridor Study is ongoing but preliminary. You can get on their mailing list. There is a link from Montgomeryplanning.org/Veirs Mill. They were to meet on March 23 at Newport Mill Middle School.

A meeting on the BRT was scheduled for March 9.

Report from Jane Salzano: Rats have recently been a concern for some in the community. Also vector control. There is an online rat abatement tool kit. Look on the MCCAB site

Regarding the English Manor playground: Jane has an appointment with the construction supervisor of MCPS on the 23rd. On the weekend of the 18th and 19th she planned to find out what families would like.

6 C. Library

Ken Lewis is the new manager Marna contacted him asking for a status update. She did not hear back. It's an indirect contact system.

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

6 E. Membership Relations [membership & social events]: See the discussion below under "Growing the Membership."

6 F. Neighborhood Relations [community outreach & senior services]: No report.

6 G. Public Safety [code enforcement, police, fire, EMS & traffic]: No report.

6 H. Schools

Wheaton Woods is still under construction but must be finished by June or July because kids must be moved out of Barnsley.

6 I. Utilities: No report.

7. Old Business

Berman Academy Playground project

Jamison (speaking on March 8) reported: Wednesday is Build Day. There are about 130 volunteers and hoping for more. Sid Katz was supposed to attend for the 3pm ribbon-cutting and maybe Navarro as well. We got a certificate from our District 19 representatives for helping to support Berman Academy in this.

Wheaton Woods Pool (WWP) Update

There was a quick response to Jamison's letter. The pool will open *but* deficiencies still must be remedied by next year. Any immediately a concrete plan to meet the deficiencies must be produced. There was discussion as to whether we can help raise the money, for example with an event and entrance fee. We might have Pierre announce something (an event) at the May membership meeting.

The board approved working with WWP on a Celebrate Aspen Hill at Wheaton Woods pool on June 11. (membership and Neighborhood Relations will coordinate with WWP representatives.

8. New Business

Spring Meeting Plans

General Meeting issues: Where and when? Our tentative choice is Parkland Middle School in their media room. We will aim for the 24th of May. **Motion:** Investigate Parkland Middle School, 7:30pm, May 24th for our general meeting. Judy Fink is authorized to commit money for room reservation and will look into a way to modify the signs to be usable for this. Motion carried.

We will need updates for the newsletter. Send to Jamison as far ahead of the May meeting as possible. Also we will formally invite our delegates to give them time to speak.

Jane discussed some program ideas for the General meeting. One was homelessness, another rats. Other ideas were discussed as well.

Other

Mail delivery issues were discussed and letter to Raskin and Delaney were considered. **Motion:** It was moved, seconded, and carried to write to our Congressional representatives requesting assistance on our mail delivery problem.

Growing the Membership

Ideas based on a list developed by the Membership Committee were presented by Melissa and discussed. The detailed list is attached as a pdf file. Notes on the discussion follow:

Option 1: Change the membership cycle so that the dues year runs from January 1 to December 31. Many pros and cons were considered. There were ideas about what months should be included in a membership renewal or new membership based on how much of the current year remains. There are many complications to changing the rule in these ways.

Option 2: Mail membership forms and letter to former members who have not yet paid for 2017. Melissa requested help on reaching out. JoAnn offered to stuff and mail if someone else writes. Melissa offered to do the letter and list of former members.

Option 3: Create a contact list of members who are willing to conduct outreach for AHCA at various community events and also willing to be contacted to do so on potentially short notice.

Option 4: Coordinate volunteers to conduct a spring door-knocking campaign to educate residents about AHCA and encourage them to join.

Option 5: Entreat all board members who are physically capable to call on 15-20 neighbors to discuss AHCA's activities and encourage them to join.

Option 6: Hold a community event to attract new members. These could be things like an Aspen Hill Fair or a community pot luck. One idea would be to hold an event at the Wheaton Woods Pool.

9. Announcements

On the subject of signs for our meetings, Joan Beerweiler noted that Councilmember Leventhal has questioned who authorized signs to be put on the County right-of-way. The Council passed the issue to the DEP. Councilmember Berliner said a very restrictive measure would be far too aggressive.

Our next meeting will be April 12, 7:00pm, at Marna Cary's house.

10. Adjournment was at 9:34pm.