

## **Park Hills Civic Association General Meeting – Summary**

The Park Hills Civic Association held a General Meeting on **Thursday, May 15, 2007** at the Silver Spring International Middle School. Attending: Anne Gavin, Sandra Fair, Chris Richardson, Alan Bowser, Jim Preston, Don Slater, Mary Clive, Evelyn Foley, Adele Biancarelli, Lisa Goldberg, Peter Blenkinsop, Judy Bor, Bob Bor, Christopher Lage, Marie Troppe, Jeanette Anderson, Patricia Markovich, Mildred Dickerson, Luzmaria Esparza, Elliott Levine, Mike Madden, Ben Stutz, Robert Rosenberg, Jill Mullin, and Bob Colvin.

**Treasurer's Report.** Sandra Fair, PHCA Treasurer, reported that there was \$142.00 in PHCA General Account. There were no expenditures since the last Association meeting.

**Secretary's Report.** Chris Richardson, PHCA Secretary, reported that, since the last General Meeting, the PHCA Executive Committee had met and discussed a variety of Association matters, including proposed amendments to the bylaws, membership, parks and recreation issues, and the proposed Purple Line alignment along Wayne Avenue. The Annual Park Hills Summer BBQ is tentatively scheduled for July 2007.

### **Old Business**

**Proposed PHCA Bylaws Amendments.** Anne Gavin, PHCA Vice President, presented amendments to the PHCA Bylaws, as proposed by the Executive Committee. She noted that the Bylaws had not been updated in many years and that it was necessary to make amendments to conform the Association's rules with its current practices. Robert Bor, a past PHCA president asked questions about the terms of Association officers and suggested that there needed to be additional clarity about terms for officers. Following discussion, it was agreed to proceed with a vote on the proposed bylaws and to revisit the issue of terms for officers after the proposed amendments were approved. The proposed amendments were unanimously approved. Ms. Gavin proposed establishing the Annual Dues of the Park Hills Civic Association at \$10 per year, per household, with the provision that the annual dues would not be prorated for the year 2007. Subsequently dues would be for the calendar year January to December. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Neighborhood Watch.** Jim Preston, PHCA Public Safety Director, discussed the status of the Neighborhood Watch Programs. Block Captains have been recruited for most of the streets in the Park Hills service area. Neighbors are still encouraged to volunteer to participate in the program as Block Captain. The PHCA has been in contact with the Montgomery County Police Department regarding next steps, and will work with the police and the Department of Public Works and Transportation to place signs at key entry points to our neighborhood. Residents are invited to send their suggestions about the location of Neighborhood Watch signs to Jim Preston at [Jim.L.Preston@yahoo.com](mailto:Jim.L.Preston@yahoo.com)

**Silver Spring Veterans Plaza Update.** Alan Bowser, PHCA President, reported on the recent May 5<sup>th</sup> community meeting on the proposed design for the Veterans Plaza to be

sited at the corner of Fenton Street and Ellsworth Drive. He said that a majority of the participants at the meeting expressed a preference for retaining the Pavilion and ice skating rink in the Plaza design along with more grass to the extent possible. He said that opinion was the same reflected in the online poll conducted by the PHCA earlier this year. It was expected that the Montgomery County Planning Board would hold a public hearing in June and that a Board decision on a final decision would be made soon after.

**Purple Line Update.** Mike Madden, Project Manager, Maryland Transit Administration, along with several consultants, briefed the Association on proposed alignments for the “Purple Line,” including a Wayne Avenue alignment. A more detailed summary of the Purple Line Update will follow shortly. In summary, MTA is now considering two alignments for the Purple Line through East Silver Spring: 1/ a deep tunnel option between Silver Spring and Thayer Avenues, and 2/ an above grade light rail or bus option that would travel along Wayne Avenue from the Silver Spring Transit Center to a station at Flower and Arliss Avenues. Both light rail and bus rapid transit are being considered.

### **New Business**

**Nolte Park Athletic Fields.** Ben Stutz, staff member, Councilmember Valerie Ervin’s office, briefed the Association on the status of the Nolte Park athletic fields, where neighbors discovered that new soil for the field was contaminated with hundreds of large pieces of glass and other debris. Following the residents’ report, the Parks Department terminated the renovation project, pending an investigation. Mr. Stutz said that, on the basis of the information that he had received from Parks staff, it did not appear that this was a County wide practice, and that there may have been a machinery malfunction.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectively submitted.

Chris Richardson, PHCA Secretary.