

Park Hills Civic Association General Meeting – Summary

The Park Hills Civic Association held a General Meeting on **Thursday, September 27, 2007** at the Silver Spring International Middle School Library beginning at 7:00 pm. Attending: Adele Biancarelli, Judie Bor, Robert Bor, Alan Bowser, Mary Clive, Mildred Dickerson, Valerie Ervin, Sandra Fair, Evelyn Foley, Elisa Freeman, Joe Garcia, Anne Gavin, Mark Gilbert, Irene Heavey, Tom Heavey, Sandy Kemper, Tom King, Gary Klauber, Mary LaMarca, Chris Lourie, Tom Pogue, Jim Preston, Chris Richardson, James Riley, Diana Rowny, Carolyn Schick, Nancy Schwiesow, Don Slater, Tina Slater, George Stephens, Benjamin Stutz, and Jean Walker.

Treasurer's Report. Sandra Fair, PHCA Treasurer, reported that due to the generosity of our Park Hills neighbors, the Civic Association's recent membership drive significantly increased the size of the PHCA checking account - from \$147.00 to \$1,105.26 as of July 27, 2007. After deduction of operating expenses (space rental for meetings, copying fees, etc.) and expenses for the planning of the 2nd Annual Park Hills BBQ, the balance currently stands at \$507.65.

Update from the Treasurer: As of October 2nd, PHCA now has 90 dues-paying members.

Secretary's Report. Chris Richardson, PHCA Secretary, reported that 87 households are paid members of the Park Hills Civic Association (thanks to Sandra Fair's bookkeeping), whereas our Park Hills listserv membership currently stands at 143. Richardson also noted that our previous PHCA General Meeting took place May 17, 2007, while the Executive Committee recently met on September 13, 2007.

Vice-President's Report. Anne Gavin, PHCA Vice-President, solicited volunteers for task force and subcommittee work on (1) Sligo Creek/Environmental Issues; (2) Public Safety/Neighborhood Watch; and (3) the Purple Line transit project. Sign-up sheets were then circulated.

Old Business

527 Dale Drive. Elisa Freeman, who lives on Schuyler Road, then made a brief presentation expressing her concerns about Montgomery County's current project to build a facility at 527 Dale Drive to house formerly chronic homeless individuals. Freeman stated that the presence of former drug addicts and the mentally ill in such close proximity to both an elementary school and a convenience store that sells beer and wine is a significant public safety risk. Freeman then solicited help from those in attendance and added that she would post a similar request for community support on the Park Hills listserv.

Purple Line Developments. Chris Richardson, Chair of the PHCA Purple Line Task Force, briefed Association members on recent Purple Line developments, and specifically about a possible above-grade Wayne Avenue alignment. Richardson walked neighbors through the two possible Wayne Avenue alignments going from the Silver Spring Transit

Center over to the Long Branch community. Richardson then noted all the significant impacts caused by the installation of an above-ground light-rail transit system down Wayne Avenue, and discussed some of the major concerns shared by residents in the Park Hills community about the Wayne Avenue alignment. Discussion followed with members inquiring about cut-through traffic, loss of neighborhood parking, prohibited left turns, handicapped accessibility, congestion (particularly at Fenton Street), and public safety issues, among other things. The Civic Association then considered a Resolution introduced by Alan Bowser. PHCA agreed to suspend the By-Laws and consider the Resolution at the meeting where it was introduced. Request was moved and seconded – the motion to suspend the rules was agreed to. The Civic Association then considered the Resolution (appended to the minutes). In the following discussion, members asked if there was a timeliness or urgency to the resolution and what are the pros and cons – particularly the downside – to passing this resolution. One section of text was deleted from the resolution due to concerns about the accuracy of this assertion: “WHEREAS, the Wayne Avenue alignment, or part of the alternative Silver Spring/Thayer Avenues option, currently being studied by MTA would be the only portion of the 16-mile Purple Line that would be at street level on a residential street.” PHCA then voted to approve the amended resolution.

Richardson announced that the MTA would be holding two MTA focus groups for Downtown Silver Spring and East Silver Spring residents in the next few weeks. Information on those meetings will be posted on the PHCA listserv. PHCA members are strongly encouraged to attend one or both of these meetings.

Richardson also announced that the PHCA Purple Line Focus Group would reconvene in the next few weeks, and urged all members to participate. Information about that meeting will also be posted on the listserv.

New Business

Montgomery County Department of Public Works & Transportation. Montgomery County Department of Public Works & Transportation. Tom Pogue, Community Relations Manager for the County’s Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT), distributed materials and presented a PowerPoint slide show of the Department’s services. Pogue gave an overview of the Department’s various divisions – Operations, Capital Development, Fleet Management, Solid Waste, and Transit Services – and answered questions from the audience pertaining to pedestrian safety, handicapped accessibility, bus services, recycling, and road resurfacing on Schuyler Road. Pogue emphasized the customer service orientation of the Department and encouraged folks to call the DPWT or him directly to answer any questions or concerns.

The DPWT website is at the following web link:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/dpwt/index.asp>

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

Respectively submitted.

Chris Richardson, PHCA Secretary.