

Park Hills Civic Association General Meeting – Summary

The Park Hills Civic Association held a General Meeting on **Wednesday, May 27, 2009** at the Sligo Creek Elementary School Cafeteria beginning at 7:30 pm.

Secretary's Report.

Chris Richardson, PHCA Secretary, reported that the previous PHCA General Meeting took place on February 26, 2009. The Park Hills community includes approximately 328 residential households, plus two small apartment buildings on Dale Drive between Schuyler and Dartmouth. PHCA listserv membership currently stands at 198. MTA Project Team has made Purple Line presentations to the Park Hills community 4 times:

- 9/26/06 [General Meeting]
- 5/17/07 [General Meeting]
- 11/7/07 [PL Task Force]
- 2/6/08 [PL Task Force]
- 8/14/08 [PL Task Force]

Treasurer's Report.

Sandra Fair, PHCA Treasurer, reported a balance of \$944.34 in the Civic Association's checking account.

President's Report.

Park Hills is now firmly ensconced on the World Wide Web:

- Yahoo Listserv [<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/parkhillscivic>]
- Facebook Group [<http://tinyurl.com/calfzm>]
- Flickr Group [<http://www.flickr.com/groups/parkhills/pool>]
- PHCA Website [<http://www.parkhillscivic.org>]

**The Park Hills Civic Association is looking for someone with website experience to help keep the website up-to-date. Just a couple hours of time each month is needed. Neighbors interested in helping out should contact Alan Bowser via alan.bowser@gmail.com.

Election of Officers.

Nancy Schweisow, Chair of the Nominating Committee, conducted the vote for the election of the PHCA Officers. Bowser, Richardson, and Fair were all unanimously re-elected as President, Secretary, and Treasurer respectively, while Stephanie Subramanian was elected as the new Vice-President.

The PHCA Executive Committee wishes to thank outgoing Association Vice President Anne Gavin for her dedicated service to our neighborhood. Anne has agreed to serve as our Pedestrian Safety Coordinator. Many thanks also to Nancy Schwiesow, Chair of the Nominating Committee, for her work.

Presentation of Presidential Flag to PHCA.

PHCA President, Alan Bowser, presented a Presidential Flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol on January 20, 2009 – the Presidential Inauguration – on behalf of the Park Hills Civic Association.

Guest Speaker, Jennifer Nettles – Downtown Silver Spring.

Jennifer Nettles - Manager for Downtown Silver Spring for Ellsworth Drive property manager, Peterson Cos., and also board member of the Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Board and the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce - spoke to residents about this spring and summer's exciting program offerings in the Ellsworth entertainment district, as well as answered questions from residents about Downtown Silver Spring. Additional information can be found at the following web link: <http://www.downtownsilverspring.com>.

Guest Speaker, Diane Cameron – Audobon Naturalist Society.

Diane Cameron, Conservation Program Director for the Audobon Naturalist Society, spoke to Park Hills residents about the importance “rain gardens” - planted depressions that allow rainwater runoff from impervious urban areas like roofs, driveways, walkways, and compacted lawn areas the opportunity to be absorbed – in reducing rain runoff by allowing stormwater to soak into the ground (as opposed to flowing into storm drains and surface waters which causes erosion, water pollution, flooding, and diminished groundwater). Ms. Cameron will be conducting a "Rain Garden" tour of the Park Hills neighborhood along with experts from the Audubon Naturalist Society and Friends of Sligo Creek. The purpose of the walking tour will be to check out sites where stormwater is causing problems of erosion, pollution, and flooding, and where opportunities for native plants (flowers, shrubs or trees), downspout diversions, and rain gardens can make a difference by slowing and cleansing the flow of water to Sligo Creek. We plan to identify candidate sites and do follow-up visits to figure out where the Rain Garden/ native plant experts can cooperate with homeowners and Montgomery County to do actual projects. This walk-through will be an opportunity to provide advice to any homeowner with respect to stormwater, erosion and drainage problems. We will also be interested in identifying any street runoff problems and planting opportunities in right-of-way and curb extension areas.

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

Respectively submitted.

Chris Richardson, PHCA Secretary.