

Park Hills Civic Association General Meeting – Summary

The Park Hills Civic Association held a General Meeting on **Tuesday, May 25, 2010** at the Silver Spring International Middle School Library/Media Center beginning at 7:30 pm.

Attendees:

Christine Arnold-Lourie; Adele Biancarelli; Bob Bor; Alan Bowser; Mary Clive; Phil Downey; Luzmaria Esparza; Robert Fair; Sandra Fair; Anne Gavin; Paul Guinnessy; Anne Kaiser; Sandy Kemper; Gary Klauber; Chris Richardson; Nancy Schwiesow; Don Slater; Tina Slater; Stephanie Subramanian.

Guest:

Sgt. Lauryn McNeill, Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division.

Secretary's Report.

Chris Richardson, PHCA Secretary, reported that the Association's previous General Meeting took place on March 24, 2010. Guest speakers at that meeting included Rita Gale - Public Services Administrator for the Montgomery County Public Libraries - who discussed the design and planning process for the new Silver Spring Public Library; and Khursheed Bilgrami - Traffic Engineer with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation's Traffic Operations Division - who discussed the county's plans to implement traffic calming measures and pedestrian-friendly improvements on Dale Drive between Ellsworth Drive and Mansfield Road. Richardson also reported that the PHCA's Executive Committee met on May 20, 2010 to prepare for tonight's General Meeting.

Treasurer's Report.

Sandra Fair, PHCA Treasurer, reported a balance of \$825.59 in the Civic Association's checking account.

President's Report.

Alan Bowser invited Park Hills residents to attend the Silver Spring Blues Festival in Downtown Silver Spring on Ellsworth Drive. The event is free and will include performances by Choo Choo Charlie Williams and Baltimore Red Jones, Jonny Grave, The Andy Poxton Band, The Daryl Davis Band featuring Ida Campbell, DC Blues Society Band, Mary Shaver and the Smokin' Polecats, and The Nighthawks. Pictures of the festival can be found at the following web link:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/alanbowser/sets/72157624119281866>

Purple Line Update.

On October 20, 2009 at the Silver Spring International Middle School Library, Park Hills Civic Association held a Special Community Meeting devoted exclusively to MTA's proposed Purple Line station at Dale Drive. Representatives from the Maryland State Delegation, Montgomery County Council, Montgomery County Planning Board, Montgomery County Department of Transportation, and Silver Spring International Middle School were in attendance along with the MTA Purple Line Planning Team. Park Hills residents ask questions about the proposed Dale Drive station and other issues related to the Purple Line. Richardson, Chair of the Civic Association's Purple Line Task Force, stated that he would be posting a detailed summary of this meeting on the listserv soon.

Meanwhile, the County Planning Board held its second worksession on the Purple Line Functional Master Plan on Thursday, April 8, 2010. The purpose of this worksession was to (1) provide the

Planning Board with an opportunity to review the changes to the Public Hearing Draft Plan that have been made in response to the Board's direction at the first worksession; and (2) ask the Board to approve the proposed Planning Board Draft Plan, incorporating any additional changes the Planning Board may direct. The Planning Board approved Attachment A (click on web link below to access this document) as the Planning Board Draft Plan and forwarded the Plan to the County Executive and County Council: http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/agenda/2010/documents/20100408_Purple_Line_Appendix_A_000.pdf

Note about the proposed Dale Drive station:

The Planning Board's Draft Functional Master Plan states on page 31 that the proposed Dale Drive station "is not included in initial construction phase; the timing of implementation to be determined."

Motion Passed: Motion for the Park Hills Civic Association to invite Mike Madden, along with the Purple Line Project Team, to meet with residents to discuss comments made in an article published in the May 12, 2010 edition of the Gazette about the MTA pushing for a proposed Dale Drive station. Moreover, the Civic Association will attempt, as suggested by a Park Hills resident, to assemble a panel of experts, who can address some of the potential impacts of greatest concern to area residents with respect to traffic; zoning & land use; pedestrian safety; environmental & watershed effects; noise & vibration; and crime & community safety. Questions from the community will be solicited prior to the meeting and directed to their respective panel members, who will then prepare answers and respond to residents at the community forum.

Web link to the Purple Line article in the May 12th edition of the Gazette:

http://www.gazette.net/stories/05122010/takonew183102_32549.php

New Business.

Guest Speaker, Sgt. Lauryn McNeill, Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division.

Sgt. Lauryn McNeill of the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division, made a presentation about the Park Watch Program. Sgt. McNeill gave a slide show presentation that included an awareness test in which residents had to put their powers of observation to use after witnessing a fictional crime scene portrayed on video. Summary highlights of the Park Watch Program:

- The Park Watch Program encourages residents to act as the "eyes and ears" of the Park Police and report anything that appears suspicious. Residents who observe any suspicious person, activity, or situation in the park are urged to notify the Park Police immediately on 301-949-3010 (emergency number). To report routine maintenance issues such as trash dumping, broken equipment, grass cutting, etc., please call 301-670-8080.
- Suspicious events to watch for and report:
 - Screaming, yelling, or fighting
 - Someone peering into parked cars
 - People in the park after hours (unless the park is designated for night-time activities)
 - People loitering in the park
 - The sound of breaking glass
- Information needed when you call:
 - What happened?
 - Where did it happen?

- When did it happen?
- Was anyone hurt?
- Description of persons
 - Age
 - Sex
 - Race
 - Weight
 - Height
 - Clothing
 - Any unique characteristics to help identify suspects
- Description of vehicles
 - License number/state
 - Make
 - Model
 - Color
 - Damage to vehicle
 - Direction of travel
- Residents are needed to help keep parks safe and crime-free. For additional information call 301-949-8010 (non-emergency) or for general parks information call 301-495-2595. To schedule a presentation for your organization or community, contact Sgt. McNeill at 301-962-1646.

Chelsea School Sale and Redevelopment.

The Chelsea School property on Pershing Drive is being sold to developer EYA, who is seeking from the county a Local Map Amendment to change the existing zoning from R-60, which allows for approximately 25 single family homes to be built on the site, to RT-15, highest density townhouse zoning, to allow for 76 townhouses to be built on the site. There is concern among many of the neighborhood's residents about quality-of-life impacts should the requested zoning change be granted by the county. PHCA, in conjunction with the Seven Oaks-Evanswood Citizens' Association, will follow this issue closely and keep residents abreast of developments as they unfold.

PHCA Election of Officers.

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

Many thanks to Nancy Schwiesow, Chair of the Nominating Committee, for her work.

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

Respectively submitted.
Chris Richardson, PHCA Secretary.