

Minutes of January 26, 2008 RCHCA Meeting

Following a potluck dinner, Joe Rosenberg, President of RCHCA, called the meeting to order.

Introductory Proceedings

A. The treasurers report was approved. It was noted that there are about 340 households paying dues and that the RCHCA income is greater than its expenses.

B. The nominating committee of Cathy Boll and Susan Gerecht put forth the following nominations: Joe Rosenberg for president, Bill Casson for vice president, Alexa Freeman for secretary and Karyl Kramer for treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor. The slate was elected.

C. It was agreed that Joe Rosenberg would write a letter of thanks to Shannon Hamm who devoted many years of service to RCHCA.

D. The minutes of October 10, 2007 were approved.

Guest Speakers

Sheldon Fishman, vice chair of the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board, described the purpose and agenda of the organization. Montgomery County is divided into five areas, RCHCA is in the Midcounty area. This group is weighing in on the county's growth policy, and supports having the county more fully consider the factor of traffic in the context of further development. They also wrote in support of the quieting of train noise. Currently they are focused on pedestrian safety around the entrance to the Forest Glen Metro Station from the east side of Georgia Avenue and hope to gain approval for a pedestrian tunnel at that site.

Adam Pagnucco of the Forest Estates Community Association is the Chair of the Crossing Georgia Committee. He spoke in support of the pedestrian tunnel and noted that pedestrian safety solutions became an issue in the local 2006 election, during which the corner of Georgia Ave. and Forest Glen was called the "intersection of death." They are now establishing ties with other community and neighborhood associations.

Mr. Pagnucco also addressed the rising incidences of car theft. He noted that car thefts are usually not committed by kids, but by organized groups who target neighborhoods one at a time.

The thieves will strike in waves, in one neighborhood and then move on to another. Pagnucco touted the success of "bait cars" used by some police departments, including Arlington County, to catch these thieves. More information about this technique can be found at www.baitcar.com.

Old Business

A. Train noise

Joe Rosenberg reported on various options being considered to reduce train noise. The issue concerns which alternative would be safest. Among the options to be used in conjunction with a quiet zone are a four quadrant gate, a median barrier or a wayside horn. Objections to these alternatives are usually based on their costs.

New Business

A. Neighborhood Signage

Jed Dinger reported that he is working on proposals for signage at the entrypoints of the neighborhood, to include a stone and wood design.

B. CKC Update

Donna Tisdale reported on the work of the Coalition of Kensington Communities. One of the reasons she is

involved is the problem of traffic on Connecticut Avenue. Some discussion followed, concerning the need for enhanced pedestrian safety. Participants noted the recent tragedy of the death of a beloved community member who was struck by a speeding car while she was crossing Connecticut Avenue. Suggestions for improving pedestrian safety along Connecticut Avenue included sidewalks, lane narrowing with grassy strips, reduction of speed limit and pedestrian-triggered strobe lights. Her proposal that RCHCA become a member of CKC was unanimously approved.

C. Save our Trails

Mike Pomponio of the Save Our Trail Coalition described changes regarding the Walter Reed Army Medical Center location. According to Mr. Pomponio, Montgomery County declined to take back the Ireland Drive trail along Linden Lane

D. Grace Episcopal Day School Expansion

Mike Baker alerted attendees that a sign had been posted near Grace Episcopal Day School that announced expansion plans. Mike suggested that anyone with interest in this expansion could follow up with the school.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexa Freeman,
Secretary