

Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association

Minutes of the October 16, 2008 meeting

Joe Rosenberg, President, called the meeting to order.

Old Business:

1. Minutes of the May 8, 2008 meeting.
Motion: To approve the minutes of the May 8, 2008 meeting.
Vote: Approved.
2. Karyl Kramer presented the Treasurer's Report. It was noted that about 375 households have paid dues. Significant financial events were the Mother's Day Concert in the park and triangle beautification.
Motion: To approve the Treasurer's Report.
Vote: Approved.

Speaker:

Bill Casson, RCHCA Vice President, introduced the guest speakers from PEPCO – Angela and David. Angela and David discussed the factors driving the cost of electricity (supply, demand, and public policy), green initiatives, and PEPCO's plans to address the issues.

Some items from their presentation:

- PEPCO does not generate electricity.
- Maryland deregulated electricity in 1999.
- PEPCO's plans to encourage consumers to save electricity must be approved by the Public Service Commission.
 - Goal is to reduce electric demand by 15% by 2015.
 - PEPCO would like to introduce smart meters and smart thermostats. Smart meters would allow the cost of electricity to vary based upon demand.
 - PEPCO would like to provide incentives to purchase Energy Star appliances and rebates for energy efficient appliances.
- Everyone needs to do their part to conserve energy. PEPCO is taking steps to reduce its energy usage (e.g. motion sensing lights).
- Lighting accounts for 20% of the electric bill. Compact florescent lights use 25% less electricity than a typical incandescent bulb.
- No new major electric transmission lines have been built in the area in the last 25 years. PEPCO believes that transmission line capacity will be a critical issue by 2011 without new construction.

Those attending the meeting were offered a compact florescent light provided by PEPCO, as a first step in reducing their electric usage.

New Business:

1. Bob MacDowall, RCHCA Health, Safety, and Environment Committee, raised the topic as requested by a member that street lights be installed on Beach Drive in Rock Creek Park adjacent to Rock Creek Hills to improve safety in the park.

A short discussion followed which included discussion of night time use of the park, light pollution, and safety. Following a discussion a motion was made.

Motion: Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association shall write a letter to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission requesting that street lights be installed on the sections of Beach Drive adjacent to Rock Creek Hills.

Vote: Approved

2. Bob MacDowall, acting as RCHCA's Membership and Welcoming Liaison, discussed welcoming new residents to the neighborhood and letting them know about RCHCA. Bob encourages residents to send him an email letting him know about new residents in Rock Creek Hills. Bob's email address is: bmacdowall@gmail.com.
3. There was discussion regarding updating the RCHCA Community Directory in 2009. Volunteers will be needed to accomplish this goal.
4. There was discussion regarding having speakers at the RCHCA meetings. A lot of effort is expended by the RCHCA Board in soliciting speakers, and the speakers dedicate their time preparing their speech and attending the RCHCA meeting.

If attendance at the meeting remains low, does it justify asking the speakers to dedicate their time to prepare and speak to the group?

5. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Vote: Approved