

Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association  
Revised Minutes of the May 14, 2009 meeting

The minutes have been revised after the meeting to include an attachment, which was not in the Minutes presented at the meeting. Revisions are in red. The attachment has a header to help identify the attachment.

Joe Rosenberg, President, called the meeting to order.

**Old Business:**

1. Minutes of the January 25, 2009 meeting.  
**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the January 25, 2009 meeting.  
**Vote:** Approved.
  
2. Karyl Kramer presented the Treasurer's Report. (Please see the Financial Summary at the end of the minutes.)  
**Motion:** To approve the Treasurer's Report.  
**Vote:** Approved.
  
3. Signage – There was additional discussion of the proposal to install signs at several entrances to Rock Creek Hills. Some of the items discussed in this topic were:
  - Need to get proper permits (MNCPPC and Montgomery County).
  - Need to get 'proper' quotes, so a proposal can be made to the members of Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association.
  - How many signs should be installed? Four signs were one recommendation, with other recommendations to start with a single sign. There was also discussion of a potential volume discount.
  - Would this hinder the traffic triangle beautification?
  - RCHCA should keep a substantial cash reserve, in case there is a need to file a lawsuit (e.g. opposing beltway widening).
  - Based on a straw vote, it was determined that the majority voting at the meeting were in favor of multiple signs (18 versus 3), and that cost would be a factor in any final vote.
  - It was suggested that the issue be raised at the October meeting.

**New Business:**

After it was determined that we had a quorum (20 members), the proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws, published in the Spring 2009 newsletter, were brought up for discussion. It was made clear that in order to for any of the proposed changes to be adopted; we needed to maintain a quorum of at least 20 members. At the start of the discussion we had 23 members in attendance. One or two left during the discussion, but a quorum was maintained.

The discussion included the following:

- One member, speaking on behalf of Jan Clarkson, a member unable to attend, ~~was going to submit~~ submitted a letter to be included in the minutes. ~~The letter is attached. Such a letter was not received by October 4, 2009.~~ Some of the points raised verbally were: limit votes to one per household; have two meetings per year (spring and fall); have two social events per year (Halloween parade and potluck, and spring concert in the park); and not everyone has internet access.
- Jane Godfrey objected to consideration of the changes to the Constitution and Bylaws believing that they shouldn't be considered since the specific wording of the amendments must be circulated prior to changing the Constitution and Bylaws.

**Motion:** Disallow the Constitution and Bylaw changes. It is not appropriate to consider the language of the Bylaws, since the language in the proposal does not contain the specific wording.

**Vote:** Rejected with three votes in favor of the motion

**Motion:** To approve the first amendment proposed in the newsletter. The first amendment from the newsletter is:

**Membership in Good Standing is Made Explicit, Article III, Sec. 2.**

Membership in "good standing" for having one's vote count is being made explicit, meaning that household dues have been paid in full. Each adult in a "good standing" household remains eligible to vote.

**Vote:** Approved with three votes opposed.

**Motion:** To approve the second amendment proposed in the newsletter. The second amendment from the newsletter is:

**"Change in required number of nominating committee members from five to at least two, Article VI, Sec. 1.**

This change reflects two things: That having a larger number of mandatory members is often difficult to obtain, and that there is no need for a "tie-breaker" if we only have two members. The fact is that (a) there's never been a tie, and (b) there is no need for a single slate of candidates to be nominated. The job of the nominating committee is simply to find qualified candidates who are willing to serve. In the event of more than one candidate for the same office, then the members at large would actually have a choice! (What a novel concept for an election!)

**Vote:** Approved with two votes opposed.

**Motion:** To approve the third amendment proposed in the newsletter. The third amendment from the newsletter is:  
**“Flexibility in scheduling meetings, Article VI, Sections 1 & 3, and Article VII, Sec. 1.**  
Flexibility on choice of day of the week for holding our General Meetings, by simply referencing the fact that they will be held in May and October, and that the Annual Meeting will be held in either late January or early February. Residents are advised to check both the current newsletter and our website, both of which will have the exact date and location at least seven days in advance. This flexibility recognizes the fact that to accommodate our host facility, we have had to switch from our traditional meeting day of the week now mentioned in the Constitution, and still occasionally get bumped to different days by more steady customers for the meeting site that we use.

**Vote:** Approved with one vote opposed.

**Motion:** To approve the fourth amendment proposed in the newsletter. The fourth amendment from the newsletter is:

**“Changing the required membership in attendance for a quorum to transact business, from 20 to 12, Article VII, Sec. 3.**

The proposal to reduce the quorum requirement is necessary to avoid invalidating all business transacted at many of our meetings when attendance is sparse. As a matter of practice, any business that requires substantial expenditures of funds is always announced at least a week to 10 days in advance, by RCHCA newsletter, by our listserv RCHCAnet, and by our website, RCHCA.org.

**Vote:** Approved with one vote opposed.

**Speaker:** Donna Tisdale, RCHCA Representative to the Coalition of Kensington Communities

Donna provided a brief summary of the status of the Preliminary Kensington Sector Plan (4/2009). Fred Boyd is the M-NCPPC staff contact for the Kensington Sector Plan.

#### 1. Environment

- 70% of traffic is thru traffic
- The sector plan will attempt to reduce traffic and encourage walking and biking.
- The sector plan will encourage a canopy of trees, more trees and less concrete.
- Reduce the carbon footprint.
- Reduce the runoff by using more porous pavements.

2. Proposed increases in the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) to encourage more multi-story buildings. This will allow additional buildings that are 50 to 60 feet tall, with larger setbacks. Encourage mixed use development.
3. Transportation
  - Proposal to narrow the traffic lanes at some intersections and to restrict turns.
  - Add trees to the median on Connecticut Avenue.
  - Increase the utilization of the MARC station.
4. Other possible impacts:
  - Bus Rapid Transit has been proposed for Connecticut Avenue.
  - Montgomery County annual growth plan – Current focus is on I-270 corridor. The Life Services Center is expected to add about 60,000 new jobs in the County. The County is becoming increasingly urbanized. There are competing priorities between new residents and current residents.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn

**Vote:** Approved

### **The Financial Record from the Treasurers' Report is:**

Previous Balance (January 25, 2009)	\$34,054.58
Receipts	\$9,509.00
Expenditures	\$3,693.44
Balance (May 1, 2009)	\$39,870.14

Attachment to the Minutes of the May 14, 2009 Meeting of RCHCA

Jan Clarkson  
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To: Board of Directors  
Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association

May 14, 2009

Re: Spring Meeting

Although unable to attend tonight's meeting due to illness, I request that this letter be read and then submitted for inclusion in the minutes.

In anticipation of the Spring Meeting, I contacted a number of residents about the proposals included in the most recent newsletter and would like to make known a number of the suggestions and comments that I heard.

1. Voting membership should be limited to one per household not one vote "for each adult." This is simply a matter of fairness. Why should a household with two adults and 4 adult children living with them be allowed to out vote the widow next door?
2. It is clear by the proposed changes to the smaller number of participants in the nominating committee and quorum requirements that fewer and fewer residents are participating in neighborhood business. To encourage more interest, hold meetings when people can come. For example, the Halloween party draws a crowd every year. Have the Fall Meeting just prior to the parade or at lunch when people are sitting at tables. Likewise, the Spring Meeting could be held in the park before the Concert in the Park. Scheduled rain dates would be available for both and not require further notice.
3. Please remember that not everyone has access to the internet or utilizes it to follow RCHCA's business. Therefore, a 7 – 10 day notice to use substantial funds is not adequate. Even when the newsletter is used, a business trip or vacation would cause some to miss the opportunity to comment.
4. The covenants are clear that "property shall not be used for trade or business" and this should be aggressively enforced. Certainly there are professionals that do not cause a nuisance and this covenant is not directed at them. But those that generate traffic or noise, or attract day laborers, or park work trucks at their homes do effect both property values and the "quality of life" of residents. A neighbor of mine commented that he "feels like he lives in an industrial park." And that he "might as well be in Wheaton." By deed, we live on "residential lots," not zoned for commercial purposes.

5. Please use the newsletter to alert residents about county ordinances that impact them. I opened the door last fall to a compliance officer looking for a neighbor who raked leaves into the street long before a fall pick-up. It turns out that this is a violation punishable by fine to the homeowner who is held responsible for telling lawn maintenance people about the law. The leaves are considered to be a hazard to both cars and pedestrians caused by the homeowner.