

Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association

Minutes of the Meeting on May 17, 2023

Hill Carter, President, called the meeting to order and introduced the other members of the RCHCA Board in attendance. He reminded those attending that they needed to check in at the entrance if they wished to vote during the meeting.

Hill introduced the agenda for the meeting, highlighting that Officer Johnson, Montgomery County Police Community Services Officer, would be discussing the issue of crime in the neighborhood, especially car break-ins.

Minutes of the October 18, 2022 Meeting

Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 18, 2022 meeting.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Mike Baker, Treasurer, submitted his report. His main conclusion was that RCHCA is in good financial condition. On October 1, 2022, there was a total of \$7,647.66 in all of RCHCA's accounts. From 10/1/2022 through 4/30/2023, \$6,307.54 flowed into these accounts while \$6,420.24 was spent. As a result, the balance on 5/1/2023 was \$7,534.96.

The full Treasurer's Report, which includes additional details, will be posted to rchca.org

Covenants Report

Hill Carter presented the Covenants Report in John Robinson's absence. Hill noted that there have been few covenants' actions since the last meeting.

- Approved – New backyard fence, 9801 Old Spring Rd.
- Approved – Skylight, and basement egress, 10103 E. Bexhill Dr.
- Approved – Teardown existing home, and build a new home, 3541 Raymoor Rd.
- Pending additional information – Backyard fence, 9804 Hillridge Dr.

Proposed amendments to the RCHCA Constitution and By Laws

Change Article III, Sec.2

From: The membership dues shall be forty dollars (\$40.00) per family (or household) payable in advance at the beginning of the fiscal year.

To: The membership dues shall be forty dollars (\$40.00) per family (or household) payable any time during the fiscal year, but prior to any rights in Article III, Sec. 1 (i.e., the right to vote at a meeting) may be exercised. The Board may waive dues for an eligible member experiencing financial hardship.

Reasons for suggesting this change: To better reflect the way that dues have been collected, and to allow the Board to waive dues for an eligible member experiencing financial hardship.

Discussion: There was a question about the start of RCHCA's fiscal year. RCHCA's fiscal year starts on January 1st (i.e., the fiscal year is the same as the calendar year).

Motion: To approve the amendments to the RCHCA Constitution and By Laws.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Change Article VII, Sec 1

From: Regular meetings of the Association shall be held three times a year. This includes one Annual Meeting to be held in late January or early February, and two General Meetings to be held in May and October. The dates for all meetings shall be announced at least 7 days in advance via RCHCA newsletter, as well as via our website, www.rchca.org and via RCHCAnet.

To: Regular meetings of the Association shall be held two times a year. This includes one Annual Meeting to be held in the spring, and a General Meeting to be held in the fall. The dates for all meetings shall be announced at least 7 days in advance via first class mail, as well as via our website, www.rchca.org and via RCHCAnet.

Reasons for suggesting this change: Reduce the frequency of regular meetings to reflect the lack of active topics to be covered, and to reduce the workload on the limited number of volunteers.

Change the method of announcing regular meetings from a RCHCA newsletter to first class mail to reflect the fact that recent meetings have been announced via postcards sent via first class mail.

Discussion: There was discussion to ensure that additional meeting could be held, if the need arises. Yes, the constitution and by-laws allow additional meetings to be called by either the President, or written request by ten members.

Motion: To approve the amendments to the RCHCA Constitution and By Laws.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Neighborhood Crime Discussion with Montgomery County Community Services Officer Johnson

We welcomed Officer Johnson to the meeting, and thanked him for attending.

The highlights of Officer Johnson's discussion were:

1. Lock your cars.
2. Do not leave valuables in sight in your cars.
3. Do not leave car keys or fobs in your cars.
4. Lock your house.

In our Police District most of the thefts of items from cars are from unlocked cars; most of the cases where the car has been broken into involve cars with items of potential value in plain sight; and most of the cases of car theft involve unlocked cars which frequently have the keys or fobs left in the car.

Discussion:

A member brought up a situation where kids stealing from cars that were caught were allowed to go free. Officer Johnson pointed out that there are laws protecting youth that commit misdemeanors. In general, children under 12 years old cannot be prosecuted, and children under 17 cannot be questioned without an attorney present. In general, the officer will write up a report and call the parents.

Officer Johnson was asked if the County Police are using any special tools (e.g., AI) to study what appears to be clusters of cases of car break-ins? He indicated that he could not go into details of the tools being used by MCP, as providing that information could be misused by those committing crimes. Officer Johnson did state that MCP has all sorts of investigations and techniques to fight crime and attempts to identify groups performing criminal acts.

New Business

The 'no left turn' signs in the Town of Kensington were briefly discussed. It was pointed out that the Town of Kensington is happy with the 'no left turn' signs and that MCP has stated there cannot be exceptions for residents of a certain neighborhood to the 'no left turn' signs.

It was mentioned that having a potluck dinner meeting may increase the attendance at RCHCA meetings. This was left open for discussion.

It was mentioned that Montgomery County will modify the intersection of Elrod Road and Saul Road in an attempt to 'calm' traffic. This re-alignment will eliminate the McNeally triangle.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Vote: Approved unanimously.