

WOODBIDGE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT AND CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WOODBIDGE VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Tina Brown, who thanked everyone for attending. Each board member in attendance was asked to stand and identify themselves to the group.

2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF APRIL 23, 2014

The minutes of last year's meeting were presented for review by Ms. Brown. MSP Joe Brown/Miriam Levy.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dorothy Habersham presented the treasurer's report. There are currently 402 paid members in the Association, with a total of 850 homes in the community at large. The membership has been steadily decreasing. The largest expenses this year are for island maintenance, board liability insurance, and purchasing tickets for an Orioles game. Deborah Ball requested that the report be moved for audit, seconded by Joe Brown.

4. PRECINCT 2 REPORT

City, the Officer Alisha Helphenstine, Community Outreach Officer from the Randallstown Sub-Station, reported that Baltimore County has begun posting crime statistics for various locations on crimereports.com. Go to the website and put in your zip code and this information is available. If residents would like to be added to the police community email tree for updates, please email Officer Helphenstine and she will add your information to the system. Office Helphenstine reported that in the wake of the recent unrest in Baltimore County, Baltimore County has been on alert for any problems that may occur in various areas of the county. There were no problems at Security Square Mall. The mall was barricaded yesterday, with over 100 police officers covering the parking lot. Additional officers were driving around and stationed in other areas. On Tuesday night the Best Buy store across from the mall was broken into, as well as the mall itself, but the perpetrators were apprehended. A question was raised whether a circus that was scheduled to be at the mall left because of security concerns. Officer Helphenstine's impression is that they likely left the area for those reasons. Security Square Mall management made the decision to close the mall on their own as a precaution, this was not mandated by Baltimore County police. Other local businesses also did the same. **Residents are encouraged to call (410) 887-2222 for non-emergency police assistance.**

5. GUEST SPEAKERS

Tony Baysmore, Special Assistant to the County Executive – Kevin Kamenetz

the This is the last term for Mr. Kamenetz, and he wishes to thank everyone for their support during his tenure in office. There is a \$1.1 billion plan for education over the next 10 years to restore our aging school system. Baltimore County has the second oldest buildings in state, behind Baltimore City. New schools will be built, old ones repaired, and every school

must have air conditioning. Mr. Kamenetz works very closely with the Baltimore County Council, whose focus has been on education, as well. There have been no increases in property taxes, and no increase in income taxes. The county still has AAA bond rating. County workers will be getting a 3% increase in pay, and the teachers will receive a 5% raise. \$80 million has been appropriated for renovation and maintenance of schools, with a large portion of those funds designated for this area. \$9.2 million has been allocated for technology upgrades, \$16.3 million for 10 schools to get new roofs, \$3.2 million to upgrade the security systems in schools. \$5.6 million has been allocated to fund the digital school curriculum conversion. \$250 thousand has been designated to increase the budget for the volunteer fire department to \$2 million. Also, the police department has received new cars with computers in them. The county executive's budget reflects his emphasis on education, public safety, economic development and infrastructure.

Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam

Ms. Brown reports that Senator Nathan-Pulliam was scheduled to have knee surgery following the close of the legislative session, and is not in attendance this evening.

Delegate Charles E. Sydnor, III

Delegate Sydnor reports that Senator Nathan-Pulliam did have knee surgery, and sends her regrets for not being able to attend the meeting. Delegate Sydnor and Delegate Pat Young share an office in Annapolis. Delegate Sydnor was a lead sponsor for HB 533: Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers, which focuses on the use of body cameras for state law enforcement. This benefits both the public and law enforcement officers when they know their actions are being recorded. Delegate Sydnor and Senator Nathan-Pulliam co-sponsored HB 926: Baltimore City and Baltimore County – Police Behavioral Health Units requires that on or before 10/1/16 police departments have at least six officers who are specially trained to deal with the needs of people who have mental health problems and/or substance abuse disorders. This is based on a program that has had great success in Texas.

Councilman Tom Quirk

Councilman Quirk reports that there is a \$3 billion school budget in Baltimore County. The portion paid by the property and income taxes for this area toward that \$3 billion budget amount is \$1.9 billion. There is a new principal at Woodlawn High School, Kirk Sykes. There is still money in the budget that has been allocated toward air conditioning at Woodlawn High School, as well as Lansdowne High School. Mr. Quirk is working with Tony Baysmore and the county executive's office to look at getting more capacity and seats in one of the elementary schools close by. The Baltimore County police have been very attentive since the unrest in Baltimore City earlier this month. A question was raised about the two empty restaurant buildings at Security Square Mall. The councilman said there are approved plans to be placed there. One issue is there are five different owners of the mall, and it is difficult for them to come to an agreement, and there is currently a lawsuit among the owners. The Councilman feels confident that Howard Brown, an investor, is interested in revitalizing the mall area, as he has does in other areas of the county. It takes time to work out the issues; Mr. Quirk feels it is a question of **when** this will occur, rather than **if** it will occur. The plan is that by placing new office buildings in the now vacant parking areas of the mall, it will

increase the demand for new restaurants to serve the people who will be coming to work and shop. If anyone has questions or concerns, please contact the councilman's office and Margaret Stokes will be happy to assist.

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Welcome

Nicole Smoot does the welcoming of new neighbors into the community. If you know of new families who have moved in on your street, please contact Nicole and she will see that they get a welcome packet. In the past year, 15-20 families have been welcomed into the neighborhood. Deborah Ball also assists Nicole with this task.

b) Island Maintenance

Ms. Brown reported that the same company that was used last year will continue to care for the islands this year.

c) Lamplighter

Myles Carpeneto helps prepare the *Lamplighter* for publication. It has three or four editions per year. If you have any information or articles of interest to the community, they are welcome and may be sent to Myles via the community website. The question was raised why the *Lamplighter* cannot be emailed to residents in the community. Myles explained that we attempted to get email addresses from residents; however, we were only able to get about 25% of the community, so that is not workable. The *Lamplighter* can be viewed on the community website at: www.woodbridgevalley.org.

d) Membership

Dorothy Habersham reported that we need to increase our membership. It is a shame that everyone benefits from living in this nice community, but some residents will not pay their \$25.00 membership dues. The new directory will be coming out, but only paid members of the Association will receive a copy. Only paid members can participate in functions such as dumpster day, shred day, and special activities such as getting tickets to Orioles games or to the circus.

e) Social Activities

Sharon Johnson reported that we are working on scheduling a shred day for the second week of October. The community yard sale is scheduled for May 2, 2015. Ben Miller informed the group this is the third year we have participated in the Orioles program for obtaining discounted tickets. This function will also include Ellicott Mills. The number of tickets is limited, but they are located in a good, covered spot (in case of bad weather). The date is June 9, 2015 at 7:05 p.m. and the tickets are \$17.00 each. Tickets can be purchased from Tina Brown or Dorothy Habersham. Tina stated that we have tickets for the Universoul Circus on May 30, 2015 at Security Square Mall. They are \$15.00 per ticket, with a limit of four per family. If there are some left over, possibly more can be purchased per family. Please call Dorothy for circus tickets. The Easter Egg Hunt was a great success again this year. We have been including Ellicott Mills in this function as well, and 60 children participated. Dumpster day will be scheduled in September. **There are always volunteer opportunities for individuals who would like to assist with social activities. There is a volunteer form available if you would like to help out. If you can help for an hour**

or

two, or contribute an idea, your support is welcome; email us at social@woodbridgevalley.org.

f) Covenants

Charles Springer informed the group that the covenants committee deals with both Baltimore County Zoning & Enforcement and Woodbridge Valley covenants. Zoning and enforcement issues are largely untagged vehicles stored on a resident's property (front, back or side), excessively high grass, junk in the yard, and trash not properly stored. These issues are referred to Baltimore County Zoning. The untagged vehicles on the street are referred to Baltimore County police. Most of the work dealing with the covenants involves granting permission to build fences, garages, additions, and sheds. Other issues include excessive noise, unleashed dogs, water run-off, and leaves not properly removed. Another issue is trees in the community, particularly when they overhang a neighbor's property. A problem that occasionally comes up is dumping trash in Baltimore County open space. The county councilman's office has been helpful with this. The Baltimore County website is a very useful tool for residents to handle many questions or concerns online. The web address is www.baltimorecountymd.gov/codecomplaint. You do not have to provide your name or address, and you may remain completely anonymous. The website also provides a way to track and follow up on a complaint. A question was raised about a boat that has been parked on Pleasant Valley. Charlie requested that the particulars about the boat be emailed to him so he can look into it. Another question was about PODs (portable storage units) remaining on properties for extended periods of time. Zoning will not do much about this problem, but if they are there long enough, the PODs could be considered a temporary building, for which you must have zoning approval. Usually sending a letter to the resident results in the units being moved. Someone voiced the question about what is the difference between having a dumpster at your residence vs. having a POD. Charlie requested that the particulars of the situation be emailed to him. Ben Miller mentioned there is a boat on Johnnycake; others mentioned there is a Gino's truck and a smashed BMW parked there as well. Charlie will be contacting the county about these issues. Charlie mentioned that the Association has been able to receive discounted legal representation from the Community Law Association.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a) Community Sign Lights

Ms. Brown reports that when the lights on the signs were first installed, between BGE and the county, they were not installed correctly. If nothing had ever happened to the signs, everything could remain the same. But since the sign was knocked down and they see how it was wired, BGE says it cannot be set up the same way; it will require that a meter be installed. When the signs were erected 12 years ago, all expenses were covered under a grant that was obtained at that time. Now Ms. Brown will likely have to find another source of funding for the rewiring and new meter installation. This has been a very slow process.

b) Treehouse

A treehouse has been in the front yard of a house on Madison Mills since 2012. After a long drawn out process that required the Association to get an attorney, the treehouse has finally been removed.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) Recycling

A problem has been reported regarding recycling pick-up that some items are not taken, and then the container is thrown back and the contents spilled on the sidewalk. Ms. Brown made a call to the department to investigate. Ms. Brown put the recycling website and phone number in the *Lampighter* so residents can review the specifics of what they will pick up. **Items placed in plastic bags will not be accepted.** Plastic shopping bags may be recycled at area supermarkets, not through curbside recycling.

b) Street Sweeping

Ms. Brown attended a meeting with County Executive Kevin Kamenetz where he spoke about the county having new street sweepers. She had the opportunity to speak with him about getting the streets of our community cleaned. However, they came to sweep without notice to the community, so many people did not have the opportunity to move their vehicles from the street to provide better access for the sweepers.

c) Election of Officers

Incumbent members up for election for a two year term to the Board of Directors are: Manya Archie, Vernise Burs, Ted King, Ben Miler, Joy Reber, Nicole Smoot, Charles Springer. Board members with one year remaining of their term are: Deborah Ball, Tina Brown, Myles Carpeneto, Dorothy Habersham, Rose Marie Hellman, Sharon Johnson, Levone Ward. There are two board members retiring at this time: Chuck Parson and Syed Ahmed. There are currently two open seats on the board. Ayesha Khan and Carla Jones volunteered to serve on the board. MSP Miriam Levy/Manya Archie.

d) Neighborhood Concerns

A concern was raised about the need for speed bumps on Johnnycake. Ms. Brown stated that unfortunately this cannot be done because Johnnycake Road has been designated as an access road for school buses and police. If you see buses speeding, notify the police or the bus company. Another concern was the need for more police presence on Crosby Road due to speeding vehicles.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by Joy Reber, Secretary