

**WOODBIDGE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT AND CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
WOODBIDGE VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2014

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 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 24, 2013

The minutes of last year's meeting were presented for review by Ms. Brown. MSP Deborah Ball/Rose Marie Hellmann.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dorothy Habersham presented the treasurer's report. There are currently 420 paid members in the Association, with a total of 850 homes in the community at large. The largest expenses this year are for island maintenance, board liability insurance, and repairing two community signs. The sign at Chesworth was demolished when hit by a vehicle, and the one at Crosby Road had begun to decay and collapse. The ending membership balance as of April 23, 2014 is \$3,792.36. Rose Marie Helmann requested that the report be moved for audit, seconded by Miriam Levy.

4. PRECINCT 2 REPORT

Officer Alisha Helphenstein from the Woodlawn Precinct reported that very few cars in our community were broken into during the past year. However, she strongly encourages residents to keep their vehicles locked at all times, and keep valuables out of sight or secured in the trunk. A home burglary was reported in February. Two cars were stolen from the Westerlee community. Officer Helphenstein also cautions against leaving a vehicle running in the driveway or on the street to warm up, without someone in it. It is very easy to steal an unoccupied vehicle, and the police may also issue a \$70.00 citation for doing this. A concern was raised about vehicles, including school buses, exceeding the speed limit on Crosby Road. An increased police presence has again been requested to help address this problem. **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**

Mr. Baysmore reported that County Executive Kevin Kamenetz is continuing to do an efficient job of managing Baltimore County. Mr. Kamenetz submitted his \$1.75 billion budget to the county council, with a strong emphasis on education and public safety. Again this year, Mr. Kamenetz has not increased property taxes, and the budget did not include any layoffs or furloughs of employees.

### **Senator Delores G. Kelley**

Due to the reconfiguring of voting districts, Senator Kelley will no longer be representing our area after January 14, 2015. Senator Kelley recommended that Delegate Shirley Nathan-Pulliam would be a very good candidate to represent us in the new district 44B. Senator Kelley reported that the subject of pit bulls took up a lot of time in Annapolis during this session. If the owner of a pit bull has no prior knowledge that his dog is vicious, a bill in the 2014 session permits the owner to refute or rebut that pit bulls are a dangerous breed. If the Court is convinced by the dog owner that there is no prior indication of the dog's vicious nature, then the victim has no recourse and will be responsible for their own medical and legal expenses, without any contribution from the dog owner or the dog owner's insurance company.

### **Speaker Pro Tem Adrienne A. Jones**

Speaker Pro Tem Jones serves on the appropriations committee and chairs the capital budget. Money will be allocated to expand the pre-K program in Maryland, which was begun as a pilot program in 1980. The winter was very severe and has subsequently taken its toll on the roads. An additional one million dollars has been allocated to Baltimore County for repairs. Speed cameras are now in regular use throughout the state. Police must verify each citation, and speed camera equipment must be recalibrated each day. The legislature has voted to raise the minimum wage as of 2018. A commission will be established in 2018 to vet individuals who will be elected and/or appointed to the school board to be certain they are qualified to serve in the best interest of children.

### **Delegate Shirley Nathan-Pulliam**

Delegate Nathan-Pulliam reported that a medical marijuana bill passed during this session. Certified doctors will be permitted to recommend the use of medical marijuana for their patients. A 'certified doctor' must be on staff at a hospital or hospice program, as well as registered with a state commission. In a last minute twist, the General Assembly approved legislation that lessens the offense of those caught with less than 10 grams of marijuana from jail time with a criminal record to a civil penalty. Another sponsored bill promotes greater testing of individuals who are at high risk of being infected with Hepatitis C. The bill focuses on people born between 1945-1965. Some individuals may go for years without symptoms, and by the time they are diagnosed, the disease is in an advanced stage. Early detection and treatment may help ensure a cure.

### **Councilman Tom Quirk**

Councilman Quirk reports that County Executive Kamenetz is going "all in" for education funding in Southwest Baltimore County. Over the next 10 years, 1.2 billion dollars will be pumped into this area to be used for building three new schools, upgrading existing facilities, and eliminating trailers that have become very common at area schools. Many schools are 50 or 60 years old, and need to be replaced or refurbished. Each new school will cost the county \$30 million. The Councilman reports that 350 new elementary school seats have been designated in the area between Route 40 and Security. Very soon, overcrowding in schools in Southwest Baltimore County will be a thing of the past. Dallas Dance has a plan that 97% of all schools in this area will have air conditioning in 10 years. This area of

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Welcome

Nicole Smoot reported that between 25-30 new neighbors have been welcomed to the community since the last annual meeting.

b) Island Maintenance

Ms. Brown reported that the same company that was used last year will continue to care for the islands this year. A question was raised why no flowers are planted on the islands and Ms. Brown responded that there are perennial flowers which come up each year, but when annual flowers are planted, they do not survive because they don't have a water source.

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.

d) Membership

Ms. Brown and Ms. Habersham generally handle the membership duties. Membership in the Association currently stands at 420, out of a total of 850 homes. A special thank you to the area representatives and block captains who are our eyes and ears, and faithfully deliver the *Lamplighters* and fliers door to door.

e) Social Activities

Sharon Johnson is in charge of organizing social activities for the Association. Activities are planned that may provide a service or be of interest to residents of all ages, not just children. The goal is to build community and provide food, fellowship and fun. Over the last year, the Association hosted the annual Easter egg hunt, planned a movie night at the pool, scheduled a teen night at the pool, organized an outing to an Orioles game, and offered discount tickets to the UniverSoul Circus at Security Square Mall. Other activities included a spring and fall community yard sale, dumpster day, and the popular shed day. To keep the community informed of events and items of interest, we continue to distribute the *Lamplighter* and paper fliers, use the community website, the one call now messaging system and a Facebook page. **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](mailto:social@woodbridgevalley.org).**

f) Covenant Enforcement

In Charles Springer's absence, Ms. Brown gave an overview of the covenants report. Baltimore County has instituted a new method of handling zoning code violations. County code inspectors are now using iPad notepad computers to help them be more efficient while handling their daily duties. The Code Enforcement Bureau processes about 18,000 complaints each year, with increased volume during the warmer months. The most common complaints include: tall grass and weeds, junk, trash and debris, untagged or inoperable vehicles, trash not stored properly, and graffiti. It is very simple to file a complaint online at [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/codecomplaint](http://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. Each summer, calls are received regarding outdoor noise. This problem should be reported to the Baltimore County police at (410) 887-2222. Please provide the specific address of the source of the noise. You may also remain anonymous when contacting the police.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a) Pedestrian and Bike Path

Ms. Brown reported that Baltimore County continues to work on a pedestrian/bike path. She referred this matter to individuals in Woodbridge Valley and Ellicott Mills who have an interest in making use of this new resource, so they may submit their input into the planning process. The latest update Ms. Brown has heard is that they are working on the project, but it is not yet near our community; they are currently working at the I-70 overpass near Franklinton. This will continue to be an ongoing process.

b) Covenant Renewal

Ms. Brown reported that the covenants of the Woodbridge Valley community have been renewed for the next 20 years. She extended a special thank you to those individuals who helped in this large undertaking.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) Community Sign Lights

Ms. Brown updated the group about the process of getting the lights re-installed on the community signs. She has been working with Sam Moxley and BGE to get this accomplished, although progress has been slow.

b) Candidates Forum for District 44b

There is a Candidates Forum scheduled for May 20, 2014 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m. This forum is sponsored by Woodbridge Valley, Ellicott Mills, Westerlee and Westview Park communities to provide an opportunity for residents to come and get acquainted with the candidates who are running for office in our district. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet the candidates before Election Day.

c) Election of Board Members

Incumbent members up for election for a two year term to the Board of Directors are: Tina Brown, Dorothy Habersham, Sharon Johnson, Chuck Parson, Rose Marie Hellmann, Myles Carpeneto and Deborah Ball. Board members with one year remaining of their term are:

Joy Reber, Charles Springer, Nicole Smoot, Vernise Burs, Manya Archie, Ted King, and Ben

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then Miller. A board member retiring at this time is Leslie Kulick. There are two corrections to the minutes from last year. Kathy Stein had expressed interest in serving on the board, did not attend any meetings. Ms. Brown spoke with her and she said she did not intend to join as a full time board member, but to only help welcome new neighbors. Chuck Parson may be running a little late. There are two open seats on the board at this time. Levone Ward and Syed Ahmed volunteered to serve on the board. MSP Roscoe Johnson/Deborah Parson.

d) Neighborhood Concerns  
At this time, no questions or concerns were raised by those in attendance.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

*Meeting minutes submitted by Joy Reber, Secretary*