

GPCA General Meeting

November 17, 2008

Bruce Mezger was the meeting chair in the absence of Ralph Wright. The meeting began at approximately 7:35 p.m.

There were approximately 19 members at the meeting.

Bruce began the meeting by making introductions of all attendees.

Cathy Wolfson read the minutes from the previous General meeting. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Marty Kelley read the Treasurer's report. The ending balance October 20, 2008 was \$4686.16. The ending balance November 17, 2008 was \$4342.58. Picnic expenses were \$897.80. The report was unanimously accepted.

Bruce read the old business. He and Marty recognized those who worked hard on the picnic logistics. He thanked everyone for their participation. He asked for suggestions and Cathy suggested putting contact information on the signs.

Bruce let attendees know that the meeting was being recorded. He talked about the status of the web site. His thoughts are that the website will be a primary communication tool for the community. Nike Missile base status was mentioned as an ongoing process. The status of Citizens on Patrol is to include community members in the process. GPCA is such a large area that having only one or two people responsible for the COP is not a feasible option. One of the attendees had a question about what is the concept of Citizens on Patrol. Bruce gave a summary and informed that Ofr. McAuley would expound further during her presentation.

Cathy Wolfson gave a presentation about bridges in the area.

Curtis Collins reported that Ed Roberts of Job Corps would be leaving his post there as of November 14, 2008.

Bruce moved the discussion to new business. The first item for discussion was the Xmas party coordinated by Kari Mezger. Bruce commented that Ed Roberts would be at the party so community members would have an opportunity to say their farewells to him there. The next GPCA general meeting will be held at Woodstock Job Corps, Abe's Place at 6:30 p.m and it will be the Xmas celebration. Kari requested RSVP's for the party. The designated dessert person the GPCA general meeting for December would not need to bring dessert since the meeting is redirected.

Discussion was made about the upcoming GPCA election. Bruce stated that the nominating committee is at work finding persons to fulfill the duties of Board Member and Board Secretary. Marty agreed to stay on as Treasurer if someone could take some of her responsibilities as Treasurer. Mainly, she needs the Membership duties to be reassigned. He invited suggestions and comments about the process.

Bobbie Stansfield gave a presentation on the Granite Historical Society. There will be an Open House and Holiday Ornament sale at the Allbright House on December 7, 2008 from 2 to 5 p.m. The house was built around 1873. Anne Libis asked for more information about the Allbrights. Bobbie supplied some history of the Allbright family and the family home.

Dale discussed that the Cherry Hill Cemetery needs attention. He mentioned that he discussed the situation in June, but that no action has been taken. Bruce stated that continuing follow-up would be done until action is taken.

Marilyn Dahl brought up discussion about a road in front of Paul Dorsey's house that is causing problems to the community. Work was begun on the road and then was halted because of the weather, but in the meantime cars that traveled the road got smeared with tar. The road was in this condition of disrepair for one day and then the sludge and tar were scraped up. Brenda Logue provided numbers that could be called so that those whose cars were smeared could get them detailed free of charge. The numbers are 804-264-0707 or 443-791-3722.

Bruce introduced Officer McAuley who gave a synopsis of her 26 year career as a police officer. She stated that the Woodlawn area has done very good in the area of crime. Robberies have increased slightly, but this might be attributed to the time of year. The majority of these robberies have been street robberies. Community members are cautioned to be careful and vigilant when out shopping. Heraldry Square on Rolling Road was mentioned as a particularly troublesome area for robberies. Her current unit offers free Home Security Analysis. An officer will come out and make an assessment of your home. She discussed the merits of the Citizens on Patrol. It was started in Baltimore City by a group of concerned citizens. Baltimore County started the initiative in the early 1990's. The key difference is that Baltimore County has a grant process that will allow citizens who are active with the initiative in their area to apply for grant funding. Officer McAuley mentioned that grant funding applications would be issued again around February, 2009. This helps with the ongoing shortage of police to effectively patrol neighborhood areas. Neighbors who get to know one another form a protective network toward their community safety. She confirmed that the GPCA community needs more volunteers to do Citizens on Patrol. She next discussed gang activity in the area. She said that gangs are not known to be in the GPCA area, but they are still around. She stated that gangs have become a subculture with the movies and music and that a major contributing factor to gang formation is the fact that parents have to work. Elaine Rasheed

asked about resources for community parents to get information about gangs because some parents are not aware of the current signs and symbols of gang activity except what has been shown on TV about Bloods, Crips and the gang colors. Officer McAuley suggested the gang unit of the Baltimore County Police Department. Anne Libis asked about shed break-ins and Officer McAuley suggested observing the hinges on shed doors to prevent potential burglars from removing the shed doors.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.