

**Greater Patapsco Community Association
General Meeting
February 9, 2009**

The meeting was opened by President Ralph Wright at 7:40pm.

Thanks to Betty Griffith and Bonnie Kahler for providing refreshments.

Secretary Cathy Wolfson recorded the minutes and read the January 12, 2009 general meeting minutes. Those present were asked if there were any objections to recording the proceedings to aid in the transcription of the minutes. Hearing none, the meeting was recorded.

Treasurer Marty Kelley requested that the minutes be amended to correct the ending balance in the treasury as of Jan. 12, 2009 to \$3,952.53. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance Jan 12, 2009	\$3,952.53
Income	585.00
Disbursements	254.39
Ending Balance Jan. 12, 2008	<u>\$4,283.14</u>
Balance in Savings	\$5,527.92

Financial Report was unanimously approved

Ralph summarized the following January board meeting topics and GPCA goals for 2009. Comments from the general membership in attendance were requested and follow the topics in bold below:

To date there are three social activities planned for 2009

- **Community cleanup** – Scheduled for April 25, 2009.

It was suggested that some type of signage be provided to clean up teams to notify approaching traffic of their presence to reduce the danger to volunteers. This item to be looked into with SHA. It was also asked if a dumpster would be provided for recyclables, noting that several teams divided trash collection duties into recycling and other trash.

Ralph will ask Carol Link, organizer of the event about these two issues.

- **Community picnic** – no date as of yet
- **Holiday celebration** - planned at Job Corps

Goals for 2009

- **GPCA web page**

Elaine and Gerald Rasheed have submitted a draft for review. The site is www.gpca.net Elaine noted that the link to Baltimore County's Crimewatch page is preferred over the *Angel Crier* because it is regularly updated online. *Angel Crier* is a pdf file which must be downloaded regularly and saved to update. General meeting minutes have been posted through 2006. The volunteer form on site will be linked to Ralph's email address and the membership form will link to Cathy's.

- **Blog**

Quick and easy forum for members to discuss topics of interest in community and post links of interest and use to community members. Must have an email address to function.

- **Woodstock Job Corps involvement**

Will look to see how our relationship develops under new director, Tanisha Nixon

- **Citizens on Patrol (COP)**

Coordination of cruises has proven insoluble so the formal COP concept has been abandoned. Community members are still encouraged to think civically and report to 911 suspicious activity that they witness while driving in the community. This activity may be also be reported in the newsletter to raise awareness and note trends within our boundaries. Officer McCauley is sending information of local interest to Ralph which he will submit to newsletter.

Recent trends in the community include ongoing delapidation of Cherry Hill property on Offutt Road, dumping of chairs, lumber and other litter in Bethel entrance on Old Court Road and dumping of furniture at Nike Base entrance. Those interested in addressing Cherry Hill issues were encouraged to attend the Granite Historical Society meeting on Feb. 17. Louis Diggs, historian will be the speaker and will be addressing the Cherry Hill Cemetary specifically.

- **Disposition of newsletter printer/copier**

Paul Dorsey indicated that at this time the process was continuing as usual.

- **Bon Secours Spiritual Center partnership**

Clarification was asked to define this. Ralph said that they have welcomed the membership to visit their facility on Marriotsville Road and would like an opportunity to inform us about their services and activities. A General Meeting at which they would serve as guest speakers could be held there but would have to be scheduled for a time conducive to their schedule.

- **Monitor and respond to Legislative and Zoning initiatives**

- **Guest speaker programs, local entrepreneurs as speakers**

Speakers could include residents who would have an opportunity to familiarize us with their business by giving a brief presentation.

Ralph is coordinating a presentation by Dept. of Natural Resources in the spring to discuss invasive plants and our relationship with Patapsco State Park

A suggestion was made to invite a speaker who might address the impact of the national economy on local residents. Our three state delegates can be contacted. US Congressman, Elijah Cummins has expressed interest in addressing community groups in his district and could be a possible speaker.

- **Email meeting announcements to improve attendance**

In addition to meeting announcements in newsletter a bulk email notice to members prior to the general meetings was suggested to boost attendance.

- **Monitor NIKE site status**

Claude has done a great job keeping us informed regarding the site. Additionally, Senator Kelley has been very supportive and has kept us apprised on any new developments at the site.

- **Consolidate and store GPCA records**

Records are in assorted members home. A proposal remains to consolidate those records in a climate control storage facility.

- **Monitor impact of BRACC on community**
- **Honor our Service Personnel Program**

Would like to establish a program to package and send items donated by community members to service members during the holidays.

New Business

BGE – Marty expressed her frustration with the significantly higher electric bills received for December and January and the group indicated that their experiences were the same. Noting a trend in these responses to recent spikes in energy prices BGE has contacted community leaders and offered to send their representatives to community meetings to address these concerns. This offer was well received but it was noted that to be balanced an elected official and representative from the Public Service Commission should be present as well.

Ralph asked for further comments. Hearing none a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.