

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

The meeting was opened by Vice-President Bruce Mezger at 7:40pm.

Secretary Cathy Wolfson read the February 9, 2009 general meeting minutes.
The minutes were unanimously approved.

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.

There were 31 members in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance Feb 9, 2009	\$4,283.14
Income	700.00
Disbursements	(1,009.05)
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Ending Balance March 9, 2009	\$3,974.09

Balance in Savings \$5,528.39

Financial Report was unanimously approved.

Old Business/New Business

Due to a special presentation on reducing energy consumption by Tawanda Howe of BGE no old or new business was discussed at the meeting.

Ms. Howe provided everyone with literature relating to saving energy, purchasing efficient appliances, BGE contact references and a guide of social and human service assistance programs.

She opened the program by noting that the top three energy users in the home were the water heater, refrigerator and heating system.

Rate increases of 15% were phased in beginning July 2006 and an additional 15% increase was imposed in 2007. We now pay market rates for energy.

The following suggestions were made to lower utility bills:

1. Wear more clothes
2. Close windows
3. Turn off heat pump when temperatures fall below 30 degrees. At that point there is no warm air to pull for the outside
4. Use ceiling fans to pull down warm air into the living space
5. Use compact fluorescent bulbs
6. Turn down the thermostat on water heaters to 120 degrees
7. Install a programmable thermostat
8. Unplug chargers
9. Turn lights and other electronics off when not in use, ie computers, printers.

She explained the Peak Rewards program which provides the homeowner with either a programmable thermostat or an outdoor air conditioner switch which allows BGE to “cycle” your air conditioning on and off, typically during the summer months when electricity demand is especially high. Participation in the program can result in a credit of \$50 - \$100 each summer you participate in the program. More information can be found at

www.BGESmartEnergy.com/PeakRewards or at 1-888-309-7325.

A member asked why her budget billing amount increased due to an estimated bill from BGE. Ms. Howe said that the formula used to estimate usage results in higher charges and advised the member to take an accurate reading of her meter and call BGE to request an adjustment.

Another member asked why the gas portion of her bill for January was actual but her electricity reading was estimated. Ms. Howe requested a copy of her billing to use for an inquiry.

As the supplier of “last resort” BGE is the default supplier unless a customer chooses a different utility company.

If you feel that you are being charged for more power than you are using you may request a special reading. BGE will send someone to check your meter to confirm whether it is functioning correctly and replace it if necessary.

Meters are gradually being converted to remote readings which can be performed from the meter reader’s vehicle. The old system where BGE personnel were provided keys to access meters inside customer’s homes has been phased out.

A show of hands indicated that approximately 50% of those in attendance had received estimated bills in January. Ms. Howe attributed this to icy conditions and leave taken by BGE personnel for the inauguration.

Claude expressed frustration with BGE’s parent company, Constellation Energy for spending money that should be returned to the stockholders for promotion at Center Stage. Ms. Howe explained that as a public utility the company is required to support such programs in the community.

Ms. Howe thanked us for our time and promised to take our concerns about exceptionally high estimated billing, inconsistent meter readings and stockholder criticisms to Vice President Jeanette Mills.

Bruce asked for further comments. Hearing none Ms. Howe was thanked for her time. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting which was approved and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.