

GPCA General Minutes

September, 2008

The regular meeting of the Greater Patapsco Community Association was brought to order at 7:30 pm on Monday September 8, 2008 by President Ralph Wright.

In Secretary Elaine Rasheed's absence, Cathy Wolfson recorded the minutes.

All attendees introduced themselves. Attendance sheets were circulated and are attached to the minutes.

Cathy read the minutes from the last General Meeting on June 9, 2008. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Marty Kelley was not in attendance and Ralph submitted the Treasury Report as of the most recent GPCA board meeting on Monday, August 25, 2008:

Beginning Balance July 21, 2008	\$6,112.30
Income from Membership Dues	193.00
Disbursements	(294.56)
Ending Balance August 25, 2008	<u>\$6,010.74</u>

Old Business:

Ralph summarized the following activities of the board since the last General Meeting:

Zoning:

Comprehensive Zoning Meeting Plan issues dominated the board meetings and advance notices regarding those issues from Councilman's Oliver's office were addressed. Several members attended the Community Input Meeting of Restoring Life Church on Windsor Mill Road. Proposed funeral home at King Memorial Park on Dogwood Road was discussed.

Newsletter Distribution:

Gratitude was extended to Georgiana Grant for automating the process of printing and distributing the newsletter.

GPCA Webpage:

Gerald Rasheed is to update the website by November.

COP:

Curtis Collins and Stacy Wollinski (sp?) are to meet with the board in September to discuss the project.

Nike Base:

Petroleum found in soil is degrading. Has been found to be acceptable for recreation so long as soil is undisturbed.

Archive Records:

Ongoing effort to find adequate storage at an affordable rate.

GPCA Picnic:

To be held at Pam Pahl's farm on October 18th at 3:00 pm.

GPCA Election:

Nominees for officers and board members from the membership may be made at this time.

Membership Drive:

Clarence Harrell and Dr. Ramsey are exploring initiatives to attract community groups from within the membership boundaries.

Upcoming Guest speakers:

November – Police Community Liaison, COP

December – Searching for guest speaker to address environmental "green" topics

Troop appreciation:

Investigating how to express community appreciation for the work our troops are performing overseas.

Guest Speaker – Baltimore County 4th District Councilman Ken Oliver

Ralph introduced Mr. Oliver who received a warm round of applause from the membership in appreciation of his unwavering support of our no upzoning position during the rezoning process. Ralph read Mr. Oliver's biography from the Councilman's website.

Mr. Oliver described the difficulty of the 2008 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP) cycle due to the applications for rezoning on behalf a synagogue, a mosque and three churches. Each of these issues required expanding the Urban Rural Demarcation Line (URDL). The URDL was determined by the county's 2010 Master Plan and delineates those lands served by public water and sewerage from Rural Conservation zones. Mr. Oliver denied the requests citing his long standing position to preserve the URDL. Further the applications for rezoning on Windsor Mill Road by Christian Life and Restoring Life churches when considered with the traffic generated by Jesus House, also on Windsor Mill Road and Antioch Baptist on Old Court Road between Greens Lane and Windsor Mill Road would, if granted have generated gridlock to local traffic when services or activities were held.

Baltimore County has been offered 50 acres of property currently held by Beth El for the possible site of a county sports facility. Mr. Oliver cited current budget shortfalls on the state and county levels which may negatively impact the likelihood of this proposal.

Work on the Randallstown Community Center is on track to be completed on time in March of 2009.

Negotiations continue with Ruby Tuesday for a restaurant located in the Home Depot shopping center.

Walmart is getting closer to announcing a construction date for their location at Randallstown Plaza at Brenbrook and Liberty Roads. Mr. Oliver has requested that WalMart consider construction of a Super WalMart citing the closing of two grocery stores on Liberty Road in recent years.

Regarding the vacant Giant Store at Offutt and Liberty Roads Mr. Oliver is to attract a satellite campus of CCBC. Mr. Oliver advised the group that many high school seniors today have light schedules due to their fulfillment of credit requirements prior to their senior year. A CCBC campus within walking distance of Randallstown High School would allow students to earn college credits during their senior year.

Antwerpen has closed for business. Hopes to fill space with a full service Baltimore County Police Station have been sidelined by \$40 million budget shortfall.

Mr. Oliver said that community concerns regarding the proposed Funeral Home at King Memorial Park on Dogwood Road may be addressed by attending the developer's Community Input Meeting. There has been no date set for the meeting.

The Reisterstown Ice Rink has proven to be very successful for the County and has generated \$500,000 in income since it's opening a year ago.

Consideration is being given to installing artificial turf on the playing fields at Northwest Regional Park.

Ralph then opened the meeting to questions from members:

Clarence Harrell:

Q: Given the rising percent of unemployment what is the state of the County's first time homeowner program?

A: Currently \$10,000 is being made available to qualified applicants, but efforts are being made in increase that limit to \$20,000.

Claude Libis:

Q: Will Walmart use environmentally friendly building materials in the construction of the new store?

A: That is a question which I will direct to Walmart.

Claude Libis

Q: Who is paying for the Randallstown Community Center?

A: Baltimore County is paying \$13.5 million for this 60,000 sq. ft. green building. All new construction of county facilities is required to use environmentally friendly design and materials. The building will house an indoor swimming pool, indoor track, 2 basketball courts and a computer/tech center. There will also be a theater and lounge funded by federal funds which were secured by Senator Milkulski. The facility is designed to be used by all residents from 8 to 90! Currently it is on time and on budget.

Dale Feidler

Q: The Cherry Hill Cemetery (on Offutt Road) is ignored by the property owners and in disrepair. What is the county doing to address this?

A: Baltimore County has applied for grants from the Federal and State Governments to restore the property. Upon receipt of these funds the property will be restored.

Note: Ed Roberts, representing Job Corps offered their students' services to participate in the cleanup and restoration of the Cherry Hill project.

Bruce Mezger:

Q: Regarding the proposal to develop a recreational facility on the Beth El property, the church would benefit from the sale of the property but what is the advantage to the county?

A: Recreation. Currently the property owners have not accepted the offers which have been based on property tax appraisals.

Carolyn Johnson:

Q: How many acres are being proposed for sale?

A: 50 acres

Ralph Wright:

Q: What is the advantage of upzoning to the church?

A: Upzoning would enhance the value of real estate in the event that the site was determined to be unsuitable for their needs.

Robbie Rutledge:

Q: What is the status of the auto shop and house on the southwest corner of Offutt and Liberty Roads?

A: The County is considering purchase of this site to align the intersection.

As no further questions were proposed Ralph thanked Mr. Oliver for his attendance and support.

Guests – Business-Community Liaison Ed Roberts of Woodstock Job Corps Center introduced Rodney Butler, Center Director who addressed the group:

Job Corps is currently threatened by budget shortfalls in the US Dept of Labor, but enjoys bipartisan support. Two weeks ago Congressional Appropriations Committee staffers visited the Center to see first hand how the program works. Claude Libis provided community input to the staffers which reflected well on Job Corps. Upon their return to Washington, Congressman Cummins aid distributed a petition to House Representatives to support funding of the center.

Currently the Woodstock center is serving approximately 500 students, 440 of whom reside at the center. They have a staff of 230 +/- employees making them the largest employer in the 21163 zip code area!

The Center is located in a beautiful but dated facility which is challenging to operate. Since managing the center, Adams and Associates have improved Woodstock's performance ranking from 109 out of 122 centers nationally to number 6. Further, the center has earned number one ranking in the Philadelphia region.

Based on its successful performance the center was awarded \$850,000 for capital improvements.

Mr. Roberts announced that Woodstock students will again assist the GPCA in setting up for its annual community picnic, scheduled for Saturday, October 18. He also offered the service of students in the Center's security to patrol the community with COP volunteers. Refreshments for the November GPCA General Meeting will be graciously provided by the Center's students.

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm. The next General meeting will be held on October 13 at 7:30 pm.