

DRAFT

Brookdale Citizens' Association Annual Meeting May 2, 2019

Minutes prepared by Amy Rispin, Secretary

The Brookdale Annual Meeting was held at the Wisconsin Place Recreation Center in Friendship Heights May 2, 2019 at 7:00PM. President Dick Podolske chaired the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Although a formal report was not provided, as of May 1, The CD contained \$9,708.89 and the balance in the checking account was \$1,032.23.

Presentation on Safety and Security: – Officer Dana Stroman, Montgomery County Police (dana.stroman@montgomerycounty.md)

Officer Stroman is Community Services Officer with the Second District of Montgomery County, which stretches from Friendship Heights to Falls Road and has the lowest crime rate in the County.

She pointed out that the police department relies heavily on citizens – “If you see something, say something.” She further noted that a crime need not occur for you to call the non-emergency telephone number. She requested that if you see or post information about possible criminal activity on a local listserv, that you share it with the police department. Important phone numbers:

- for emergencies call 911
- for non-emergencies, call 301-279-8000
- for county services, call 311 (not police, fire or emergency services)

Thefts of valuables (usually) from unlocked vehicles constitute the greatest number of crimes in the second district, with 20 – 30 incidents per week. Thieves apparently work both sides of the District of Columbia/Montgomery County line. Most thefts occur at night. She recommends that if you are awake at night, look out the window and place a call if you see something suspicious so that department efforts can be focused appropriately.

Most thefts from private homes occur between 9PM and 5AM. Doors should always be locked, even if you plan to be away for only a few minutes. Keep house numbers large and visible and keep house lights on. Doorbell video cameras can capture images that may be useful to police. The Police Department provides free home security assessments by appointment.

Pickpockets are active in medical buildings and grocery stores. Keep your purse in front of you or your wallet in your pocket, covered by your hand.

Telephone scams – do not donate by phone unless you have initiated the call. Be alert to fake Medicare calls, made to elicit your Social Security number. The Police Department posts weekly crime statistics on Wednesdays. Also, see the Department website at MontgomeryCounty.gov. Also see Nextdoor.com.

Changes to the Brookdale By-Laws:

Brookdale Dues

Noting that voluntary dues are paid only by about half of the homes in Brookdale, and that a dues increase is needed to maintain the many Community activities, Treasurer Heather Paul introduced the Board's amendment to *Article 1, Section 1: Dues and Assessment*.

“Dues shall be \$40 per calendar year (corresponding to the Brookdale fiscal year) per property starting on January 1, 2020.”

The amendment was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Presidential Term limits

Revision to Article III, Section 3: Election of Officers. “The elected officer shall hold office for a one-year term beginning June 1 with no limits on the number of terms to be elected. The person holding the office of President shall not hold office more than four terms unless no candidate seeks the Presidency.”

The amendment was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Election of the Board:

The nominating committee proposed the following slate for the Association's Board for FY 2019: *President*, Dick Podolske; *Treasurer*, Heather Paul; *Secretary*, Amy Rispin; *VP for Brookdale North*; Mike Makuch, *VP for Brookdale South*, Jack Morton; *VP for Wohlshire*, Tom Husted; *VP for Orcharddale*, Manuel Ochoa; *Member at Large (consistent with Article IV Section 2 of the Brookdale Constitution)*, Adrienne Nassau. There were no other nominations from the floor. The slate was approved by unanimous vote.

Upcoming Events:

Spring Block Party, Saturday May 11, 5:30 – 8:30PM in Brookdale South at Keokuk and Dover Court

Front Porch Friday – Early Friday evening May 24 at home of Mylan/Lewis. Informal get-together

House and Garden Tour – Sunday June 9, 1 – 5PM
Stay-In-Place:

David Lewis and Marie Moylan introduced the topic of “Stay-in-place” villages possible for the Brookdale area. This is part of a movement which enables older people to stay in their homes and get assistance as needed. Montgomery actively supports the stay-in-place concept for our area. With a 4 – 11% participation rate of area villages, Brookdale is too small to do this for ourselves. Little Falls Village has extended its border to include all of Brookdale. David Lewis introduced Lisa Rosenthal, Director of Little Falls Village.

Little Falls Village is a 501(C)(3) non–profit organization and community network for seniors who choose to live independently in their homes, and we are now in our sixth year. We are a vibrant community of seniors and volunteers who live in Bethesda’s 20816 zip code, Kenwood and now the entire community of Brookdale! We look forward to meeting Brookdale residents to explore ways in which you can get involved with Little Falls Village and how we can serve your community. We are excited to welcome you into our community!

Little Falls Village is part of a national and local movement that includes more than twenty-five Villages in Montgomery County, including several in the Bethesda and Chevy Chase areas. We currently have about 130 members and 90 volunteers, many of whom are both members and volunteers. Through our active calendar of programs, events and outings, Little Falls Village members and volunteers expand social connections and strengthen their community networks. Many Little Falls Village members are long-time residents of our Bethesda service area and our Village is a significant factor that enables our members to stay in the neighborhood as active community participants. LfV is all about neighbors meeting neighbors and neighbors helping neighbors.

Little Falls Village has two types of memberships – Full Memberships are \$350 per year and include access to all programs and events, as well as services if and when needed. Community Memberships are \$250 per year and provide access to all programs and events. Volunteers are also able to fully participate in Little Falls Village programs and events.

Little Falls Village supports our Full members if they need additional services – either short-term or longer term, including transportation, home visits, errands, handyperson and technical support, referrals, discounts for home care services and support for transition back home after a hospital or rehabilitation stay. Services are provided by volunteers, most of whom also live in one of our neighborhoods. All volunteers have been background checked and trained.

We also provide twice monthly speaker programs at the Little Falls Library, usually on the second Thursday and fourth Wednesday of each month. These events are free and open to the public, and there is a fantastic line-up already planned for the coming months. Last year, we had more than 650 attendees at these Library events.

Little Falls Village website www.littlefallsvillage.org,
Executive Director Lisa Rosenthal (301) 320-3267
Email info@littlefallsvillage.org.

Neighborhood Issues

GEICO: Adrienne Nassau, Brookdale's representative to Geico, reported:

Representatives of the Brookdale meet with Geico's vice president of real estate and community relations several times a year. Current issues including the following:

1. Geico has requested the community's permission to park a camper trailer in the driveway of one of the Geico owned homes. The camper was awarded by the Make-a-Wish foundation to the parents of a disabled child who lives in DC.
2. There is flooding after heavy rains at the end of Saratoga Avenue next to Geico's property. Geico agreed to address this.
3. Geico requested that the community alert their security if residents see people in the smoke shack after business hours. In addition, residents may call the non-emergency number for the police.
4. In accordance with our request, Geico agreed to keep the smoke shack lit after hours. This helps illuminate the cut-through used by Brookdale to access Friendship Heights.
5. Ms. Nassau asked attendees at the meeting what important issues we should bring up to Geico. Several people responded that they would like more attention given to cleaning up the buffer between Geico and Brookdale: especially clearing vines, the underbrush and planting new trees to replace dead ones. There is a legal agreement with Geico that requires that Geico maintain the buffer.

6. Montgomery County is responsible for maintenance of the Brookdale park (which is presently owned by Geico); however, citizens should clean up debris after events in the park.
7. A legal agreement is in place that stipulates that if GEICO ever re-develops their property, Brookdale to obtain title to the park.

Accessory dwelling units: Manual Ochoa reported:

CCCFH is coordinating responses for local communities. ADU's especially desirable within half a mile of Metro. CCCFH advocates certain restrictions, including prohibition of airbnb rentals.

Parks & Planning:

Willard Ave. – Historic Reynolds house - Montgomery County owns the house. Casey Anderson, Director of Parks and Planning has added this house to the Park-Refresher Program and is considering alternative uses for the property. Parks & Planning has executed a new lease of the Reynolds House to a family under its affordable housing program. The Park-Refresher program is a new park program proposed by Chairman Anderson to pay for smaller improvements to parks. The Chairman has proposed that Willard Avenue Park be included as one of the early pilots. Currently, large and expensive renovations of county parks cost millions of dollars allowing for improvement to one or two parks a year.

PEPCO substation on River Rd at Willard – The County recently purchased the property for use as park land.

