

**BROOKDALE NEIGHBORHOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**  
**Board Minutes of Meeting on April 18, 2023**

Present: Richard Podolske (Dick), Lisa Clark, Manuel Ochoa, Jack Morton, Mike Makuch, Heather Paul, Adrienne Nassau, Maha Hadad and Darcy King-Leatham.  
Absent: Peter Biersteker, and Sibyl Erdman.

Administrative

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 2023 meeting. The motion was approved. Minutes will be posted to our website.

Next Board meeting will be held on June 27th after our annual meeting on May 18th.

Treasurer's Report. Our total balance as of April 18, 2023 is \$13,878.23 of which \$4,027.15 is in checking and \$9,851.08 is in our CD. Expenses this past month were \$912.24 (including \$750 for the Mariachi Band). No new dues were received this past month. 40 residents (10%) have paid dues for 2023. An envelope for dues will be included in the new directory and a reminder to bring dues to the annual meeting will go out on list serve.

Discussion

Darcy was nominated as Secretary of CCCFH by Lloyd Guerci.

Brookdale sign replacement. Vandals again destroyed one of our signs. Jesse was hired to create and install a new sign at a cost of \$600.

Brookdale website development and content. Upcoming events were moved to a more prominent position on our webpage. Board members ascertained that one can pay dues electronically on website.

Status of the Bugle. The Bugle will be distributed the weekend of April 22nd. We decided to not include a dues envelope with this edition. Lisa mentioned that she had room for another article. A decision was made to include an article about Amy Rispin's bench and a letter from County Executive Marc Elrich with a disclaimer.

Updating the Brookdale Directory. Lisa offered to edit the introduction. Vice presidents promised to follow up on a few residences by Saturday. If we have not been able to ascertain who is occupying a residence, we will default to the entry in

our last directory. Names have been alphabetized in part due to the assistance of Adrienne's daughter. The Board agreed to pay \$200 to have directories delivered.

Status of Amy Rispin bench. At the Board's behest, county workers have installed a bench in honor of Amy Rispin. Mike will confer with Paul Rispin to set a date for its dedication. The date will be announced at the annual meeting.

Status of Amy's history of Brookdale. Lisa will collect 50 printed histories this week. We will make the history available for sale (\$10) at the annual meeting.

Status of nominations for Brookdale Board. Mike said that he has not received any nominations to date but that he would solicit nominations again on the list serve.

Annual meeting. We need to set up at 6 pm as the social hour will start at 6:30. The meeting will run from 7 to 8:30. Tom promised to print and post signs. We discussed whether we should invite a speaker but decided to hold a discussion instead, perhaps surveying residents as to their top concerns. Manuel promised to bring posters to facilitate feedback and discussion. We will introduce new residents. Heather will give a treasurer's report. Dick will provide a review of the past year and announce future events. We will have nominations and an election of Board members. Heather and Lisa will prepare a raffle.

Development issues.

- Status of Little Falls Parkway road diet and linear park. Darcy reported that at a Montgomery County Planning Board (PB) meeting, the Parks Department presented its traffic report and recommended that the PB make its pilot project (road diet) permanent. The PB listened to extensive testimony from residents which was largely opposed to the plan. PB staff recommended that PB make the road diet permanent. PB is holding a work session on April 27th to decide the future of the plan.

- Proposed bike plan on Western Avenue. Dick reported that the District of Columbia's transportation department has not yet created a design for the plan. They assured Dick that they are well aware of the congestion at River and Western.

- Current status of proposed and existing commercial development. Manuel reported that there is nothing new on the horizon that we have not already discussed (Mazza, Lord & Taylor). However, he noted that our county PB has renamed the Friendship Heights Urban Design Study as the Friendship Heights Select Sites Zoning Study which will analyze the development potential of select sites in downtown Friendship Heights and compare that potential against recently

developed projects in the region. This study is not a sector plan and will not change any zoning. The specific sites include GEICO, the Saks Fifth Avenue parking lot, the Chipotle/Mei Wah block, and the corner of Willard and Wisconsin.

- The Montgomery County Council recently voted unanimously to enact an expedited bill to create the Friendship Heights Urban District that will, among other things, create an advisory committee with the aim of strengthening the commercial and public spaces in Friendship Heights.

- A food court above Whole Foods is still under construction.

- Boundary Park. Peter spoke with county officials who assured him that they would clean up the woods but have not said when. We will write a letter if they do not commit to a date soon.

- GEICO. Adrienne, Dick, and Tom plan to meet with a GEICO representative on April 25th to discuss various issues including tree hazards.

- Manuel reported that a new association, West Friendship Heights Civic association, has sprung up recently. It overlaps with Brookdale slightly.

Future events. Dick relayed that Debra Kalb has published a book and is interested in participating in a Brookdale-at-Home event. The Board will consider a date in the fall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Darcy King-Leatham