

Brookdale Neighborhood Citizens Board Minutes of Meeting on February 8, 2024

Members in attendance: Dick Podolske, Mike Makuch, Peter Bierkstekker, Manuel Ochoa and Darcy King-Leatham. Abner Oakes was also in attendance.

Absent: Adrienne Nassau, Heather Paul, Maha Haddad, Jack Morton and Matt Paccinelli.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. on 2024 at the home of Dick Podolske.

Approval of Agenda. The agenda for the February 8, 2024 meeting was approved.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the January 11, 2014 board meeting were approved.

Next meeting. We will meet on March 21st at 7 pm.

Treasurer's Report. Dick Podolske presented the Treasurer's report. Our total balance as of January 11, 2024 is \$12,313.72 of which \$4,336.52 is in a checking account and \$7,977.20 is in a CD. Dues received this calendar year to date are \$1,050. Forty(40) households have contributed so far. We had no expenses in January.

Comments on recent events. Attendance was full at the second presentation of Eric Sanne and Mike Makuch's Camino Santiago adventure. Former Brookdale Neighborhood Citizens' Board President Steve Heyman delivered two boxes of records to Dick's home. Dick and Darcy will review the material.

Brookdale Bugle. Editor Abner will begin work on the next issue on April 8. The deadline for submissions is April 15th. Mike, Manuel and Darcy promised to submit material.

Upcoming events. On March 25th, Eric Sanne will make a presentation on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Rachel Davis of Friendship Alliance is looking for a venue too show Maya's film. Dick will speak to Deb Kalb about an at-home event centered on her recent book. Abner said he was willing to host an event on a Saturday morning to demonstrate how he roasts his own coffee. He also said he would speak to his wife to see if she was willing to present on native gardening and/or rainscapes.

Discussion of Development Issues.

Attainable Housing. On February 22, Montgomery Planning staff will brief the Montgomery County Planning Board on the Attainable Housing Strategies initiative during the Board's weekly live-streamed meeting.

The Board previously established a work group to research Attainable Housing/Missisng Middle policies. It plans to generate an outline of the various points/positions to take, together with pros and cons for the consideration of this Board and ultimately the Brookdale community (through the listserv). The goal is to identify at least a majority view, if not a consensus, that might enable Matt (and anybody else who wishes to testify) to speak on behalf of the community or at least on behalf of the Board on March 21st, as opposed to testifying only as an interested individual. The

workgroup consists of Peter Bierkstekker, Harry Pfohl, Stuart Dwyer, Richard Lucas, Bob Banach, Manuel Ochoa and Darcy King-Leatham.

This Board also discussed the possibility of inviting Planning staff to present at our annual meeting in May.

WMATA bus garage on Lord and Taylor site. Due to funding constraints, WMATA is not planning on taking action on this development in the near future.

No new information on Mazza Gallery, Friendship Heights Urban Design Study and River Road growth corridor.

Traffic issues. No news on Harrison cross hatching. Peter learned that District of Columbia's DoT now says that design of the Western Avenue bike lane isn't likely to even begin until this summer.

Little Falls Parkway. On January 23, 2024, Parks and Planning made a presentation on LFP to the full Montgomery County Council. Parks and Planning presented two proposals: its own which would have limited car traffic to the north bound side of the grass median and ripping out some of the pavement on the other side of the grass median. The Council unanimously approved the alternative proposal which maintains the road diet between Arlington Road and Hillandale, albeit with a wide green median. Traffic lanes from Hillandale to Dorset will be returned to one traffic lane on each side of the existing median. Many CCCFH members were unhappy as they had hoped that the section of LFP between Hillandale and Dorset would return to a four lane parkway.

Signage - Dick will contact GEICO to inquire about their metal signs. Our signs continue to be trashed.

New Giant at Westbard. A new Giant store has opened at Westbard.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Darcy King-Leatham, Secretary