

Parkwood Residents' Association Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2011

7:30 p.m. Kensington Parkwood Elementary Multi-Use Room

Officers:

- * Bailey Condrey, President,
- * Matt Murton, Vice President,
- * Susan St. George, Secretary,
- * Gerald Sharp, Treasurer,

Directors:

- * Gail Dalferes Condrey, Chair, Beautification,
- Kitty Stone, Chair, Membership,
- * Kira Lueders, Chair, Block Captains,
- * Peter Mansbach, webmaster,

Members: Approximately 8 other PRA Members

Guest: none

* Officers and directors in attendance

1. Call to Order-The meeting was called to order by Bailey Condrey, President at 7:37 p.m.
2. Old Business-A motion was made to approve minutes from the Feb. 2, 2011 meeting and the motion was passed.
3. Beautification Report- The beautification committee met on March 26 to identify 2011 projects and goals. In that meeting the beautification committee approved purchasing garden plaques for four community maintained areas as well as labels for the Dogipots to note PRA maintains each box and steps to request refills. The plaques and labels have arrived and were displayed during the PRA meeting. Gail Dalferes reported the completion of a number of projects including:
 - The County repaired the traffic calming curbs in front of Kensington Parkwood Elementary (KPE) damaged by snow plow mishaps during the 2009-2010 winter storms. Thanks to Clare Murphy for reporting the issue and following up with the county.
 - Planting of pansies and marigolds and mulching around two community entrance signs located at Franklin/Beach and Cedar/Parkwood.
 - Easement Named! The easement between Edgewood and Parkwood has been named Jonquil Lane, because of the many PRA beautification efforts. Next community planting will take place in the fall.
 - Labels have been applied to all four Dogipots (Jonquil Lane easement, end of Wildwood at Dresden, KPE playground backstop and park entrance at Saul/Parkwood). If bags are low or empty simply email the listserve with the number noted on the dispenser label. The 2011 budget includes funds to purchase more boxes of bags for these well used dispensers.
 - Dandelion Deveg (April 30) was not a huge turnout but Bailey and Gail spruced up the Wildwood garden in preparation for the May 7 work party.
 - NEW Garden created at the park entrance located where Saul Road dead ends into Parkwood Drive. Plantings include (3) red azaleas, (3) purple rhododendren, (2) pink dogwood trees and (2) Magnolia trees, all work and plants were paid for by Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC). Special thanks to Mohammed Turay of the MNCPPC Meadowbrook Maintenance Facility who arranged for planting and mulching this new community garden! Gail and Mohammed agreed to partner in maintaining this new community space traveled by many KPE parents and students. Enjoy!

Upcoming activity and dates to keep in mind:

- **May 7:** Planting (10-12) and Pizza party (12-2) at the community garden located at Wildwood and Saul. The new community bench will be on hand. The PRA has purchased annuals and perennials to add color to the perennials already beginning to grow.
- **June 4:** Next planting party at Saul & Cedar following June 1 spruce up by a local landscaper.
- **MOWING:** The county crews have been delayed due to frequent rains and most recently nearby tornado damage which required their attention. Kira Lueders is in contact with Montgomery Department of Transportation to ensure the community spaces are mowed as soon as possible.
- **Fall plans:** Bulbs to be planted in each community garden and in entrance sign areas.

The following ideas are being researched further to determine if each will proceed:

- **KP Cleanup with PTA** – Gail is following up with PTA on interest in this volunteer activity.
- **New planters:** Permission was requested from the County to install a planter(s) on the traffic calming curb to beautify the area and better denote the curbs, especially when covered with snow. If approved, caution will be used to select planters that are low to the ground (so children remain visible to vehicles) and are heavy (to discourage theft). The 2011 budget includes funds for this project.
- **The bench at KP Elementary was stolen.** There was a motion during the budget review which passed supporting an offer for PRA to partner with the PTA to each pay (up to \$500 each) to replace the bench. The new bench will have footers to prevent theft. Karen Hansel is the point of contact.

4. 4. **CKC, Coalition of Kensington Communities,** an update was given by Liz Brennan. Hans Riemer, an at large candidate, attempted to change a four million dollar spending decision that the council had made in 2010. The funds were designated to the Costco in Wheaton. He was unsuccessful.

Kensington Heights neighborhood working with Westfield about Costco. They are fighting the issue of the Costco gas station. As mentioned above the Department Of Development for Montgomery County gave Westfield \$4 million for Costco.

CKC and the Town of Kensington are jointly hosting a Town Hall meeting for residents on May 18, 2011 to meet with members of the District 18 Delegation, Delegate Al Carr and State Senator Rich Madaleno. An update and question/answer period about the recent legislative session will occur. The meeting will take place at the Kensington Town Hall on Armory Avenue and Mitchell Street.

5. **BRAC Update-**\$300 million in Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) money will be shared among Ft. Belvoir, VA, San Antonio, TX, and the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda for BRAC-related transportation infrastructure improvements. Have sent emails to Ike Legget and Maryland delegation to argue the logic of settling for 1/3 of the funds since we have much more congestion than the Ft. Belvoir area.

6. **Taxes and Fees Update-WSSC rate increase request info.** There will be an 8.9% increase. Two million residents will be affected. The increase is estimated at \$5.30 per month per household. This is in Ike's budget. The increase in property tax was discussed. Carol Placek had testified that many of the newly renovated homes in the area are not receiving updated assessments based upon updated appraised values. She noted that this needs to be fixed before more modest homes in the area are asked to pay more.

7. **Treasurer's Report-See the Proposed 2011 Budget.** Funds for the new entrance signs were approved and budgeted in 2010, but the bill was paid in 2011. This cost was allocated to 2010, putting the PRA in the red slightly for this year (-\$291.89). The draft budget for 2011 was sent out on the listserv, and the final approved budget will also be distributed on listserv and posted on the PRA website.

8. **Vote to adopt 2011 budget-motion to approve with the exception to the new bench 10 in favor, 3 against.** Motion was carried. Second motion to approve the proposed bench at Kensington Parkwood Elementary with the PRA paying half, contingent on the PTA paying the second half of the cost: 13 in favor, 2 against. Motion

was carried. This second motion allows the negotiators, who are in communication with the PTA, to state that the PRA has approved paying half of the cost if they want to pay the other half.

9. Area Developments-Kensington Sector Plan meeting took place on April 28 with Park & Planning. Park & Planning invited public testimony. Public supports it but not the scale. People want to see new business and life in Kensington. A large number of residents, however, want to see the density reduced. A lengthy discussion ensued.

10. New Business-Updating the PRA's 24-year-old Bylaws-214 members and only 18 at meeting. There normally is no quorum per our current bylaws. This is one reason to change the bylaws. Financially, we have reported on the calendar year since at least 2000, but the bylaws call for fiscal year reporting. We discussed options to deal with these discrepancies. One would be to ignore the current bylaws, disband the bylaws or review other area bylaws and create bylaws which represent our current activity. Another current bylaw states that the PRA member must live in Parkwood. Motion was made and passed to keep Matt Murton as Vice President until the next election since he will be moving out of Kensington soon and to Chevy Chase. He will continue to be a home owner in Parkwood.

A committee was formed to work with the board to draft new bylaws. Peter Mansbach offered to write a draft, and was tasked with doing so. Lara Akinbami volunteered to get and summarize bylaws of neighboring associations, and Margaret Douglas volunteered to serve on the committee.

Liz Brennan found out that you can call the Montgomery County Police to step up extra surveillance while you are away.

11. Adjourn-The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

[\[Parkwood Home\]](#)

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