

Parkwood Residents Association Meeting

February 27, 2023

Recording of the PRA Winter 2023 meeting link and passcode are below:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/B39Hi5T_1V_anRnjbtwJkKSutBE864FQJ12MTB/CjcUq4SLkN4I6vdXUXhwkdvYCX.FHFfqxLzzovy2eAV

Passcode: 5zk+k5.3

Association President Kira Lueders called the meeting to order and welcomed Zoom attendees. Kira recognized Joan McDermott from the Kensington Estates Civic Association and thanked Carol Fuentesvilla for her efforts to have the path from Wildwood Rd to Beach Drive in Rock Creek Park repaired.

She welcomed the evening guest speaker, County Councilmember Kate Stewart, who represents Parkwood in the newly drawn County District 4.

Jeff welcomed Ms. Stewart, who gave a brief summary of her background: 30-year resident of Montgomery County, two MCPS graduate children, Mayor of Takoma Park City, Chair of Council Committees on Government Operations and Fiscal Policy and member of the Transportation and Environment Committee, Chair of the Washington Metro Council of Governments (COG) Board.

Ms. Stewart introduced and recognized Paul Ellis, her deputy chief-of-staff (paul.ellis@montgomerycountymd.gov; 240-777-7968).

Her current areas of focus are:

- Housing- increasing supply of affordable housing and staying in place in homes
- Affordable housing ownership opportunities
- Public Safety and issues of crime
- Mental Health Issues and how to promote wellness, particularly among young people

Regarding the issue of THRIVE implementation- all aspects of the plan will come before the County Council, and she will be seeking community input on these issues.

Currently the Council is interviewing for three permanent appointees to the County Planning Board- with an emphasis on the importance of communication and trust of local communities.

She is aware of the increasing issue of motor vehicle break-ins/thefts and is working with Mont. Co. Police District Commander and Community Service Officer to identify possible actions.

The hate crimes recently experienced in this neighborhood have been seen in adjacent jurisdictions as well and need to be combatted as a community. She has organized a training with

the anti-defamation league for COG members with the goal of going beyond condemnation and identifying appropriate actions for how we can best, as a community, respond to these incidences. The recent “Day of Hate” had no reported incidents but the county increased Police presence at multiple sites.

Traffic is a perennial problem and Paul Ellis is her office lead staff on this issue. She will be looking for feedback on the proposed Summit Ave. extension. The Council is working on Safe Street proposals.

Regarding Environment issues, Ms. Stewart announced that the Forest Conservation Bill will go to the full Council, and she anticipates passage. The Dept. of Environmental Protection is currently looking at mapping areas of the County for a flood plains study to try to get ahead of anticipated increased flooding and explore possible solutions. The Council’s Environmental Comm. moved a proposal to full Council to ban the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers with a phase out plan.

Regarding schools- the CIP budget and schedule for opening Woodward High School is a priority for the Council.

Ms. Stewart urged residents to reach out and contact her office with questions, issues, problems and suggestion. **(21 min. in recording)**

Jeff Griffith presented a comment from a community member on increased density and improved public transportation and pedestrian access. Ms. Stewart replied with several ideas regarding increasing residential capacity, pathways to home ownership, purchase of rental units by tenants, subsidies and the importance of naturally affordable housing.

Jeff asked Mary Ellen Savarese to read multiple questions from the Chat Room. These included redevelopment of smaller homes, safe sidewalks, pedestrian and bike access, bike lanes, Summit Ave. traffic, access to Metro, home ownership and affordability, the ban on gas powered leaf blowers, property flooding, the County Bill regarding traffic stops, I 495/270 Toll Lanes, and free public transit.

Jeff thanked Councilmember Stewart for her participation in the meeting and taking the time to hear community concerns and questions. **(1:01 min. in recording)**

President Kira returned to the meeting agenda and thanked Michael Barber for his wonderful efforts to organize the Food Trucks for our community.

Kira called on Treasurer Gerald Sharp, to review and discuss the proposed 2023 PRA budget. She explained that the special projects, listed as \$2000, in the proposed budget, include an additional neighborhood bench, another “little library” and repair of dog bag dispensers.

Gerald first reviewed the expenses from 2021 and 2022 and explained where expenses decreased. He also reviewed the income comparing both years and remarked on the generosity of the community for the beautification category.

He had prepared a table comparing expenses and income for the PRA since 2008 (**at 1:07 in recording**).

The balance in the PRA account is \$20,847.54, which allows us to expend funds to make Parkwood better.

Kira asked for questions or comments concerning the reports and the proposed 2023 budget.

There were comments about cherry tree replacement, additional plantings, removing dead trees, composting and sustainable practices. The Beatification Committee will consider all ideas.

There was a **motion** to accept the budget as proposed by the Treasurer, including ideas included in the conversation. Motion was **seconded and approved unanimously**.

Kira thanked the members of the new “Advisory Committee” (to advise the Executive Comm) for their suggestions and recommendations.

She announced the “hopeful” planning for a PRA spring meeting and community picnic at the new Wildwood-Parkwood path.

The meeting was adjourned at 9PM. (1:22)

Submitted by Mary Ellen Savarese, Secretary