Maplewood Citizens Association

General Membership Meeting DRAFT MINUTES

Date: January 20, 2016; 7:30 pm

Attendees: Allen Myers, president; Mary Jo Deering, vice-president, Hugh Barteman, treasurer, Jo Batky, secretary and at least 14 others.

During an unexpected snowstorm, President Allen Myers opened the meeting with an announcement that the MCA newsletter had arrived late through USPS thereby providing minimal notice of the meeting. He stressed that MCA needs a Newsletter Distribution Chairperson to manage prompt delivery of the newsletter (Sept., Nov., March and May) and also save the cost of postage. Please consider volunteering for this position!

Presentation by Joe Corona, Outreach Coordinator for the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security (OEMHS):

Mr. Joe Corona has been in this position for about a year, previously working for FEMA. The OEMHS coordinates the resources of Montgomery County. The office is continually planning, practicing, revising and preparing for future management of emergencies. Their plans include all county departments, transportation, utilities, etc. and are coordinated with Washington DC and neighboring locales. He described the functions of the Incident Command Center in Gaithersburg, which runs simulated emergencies several times/year.

Planning is taking place for the predicted snowstorm this weekend. Much of the talk covered personal preparedness including acquiring supplies, planning for communication, safety, potential evacuation routes, etc.

The Role of the Community in Emergency Preparedness:

1) Get informed! Sign up for Alert Montgomery, a free emergency alert system. Each subscriber determines which alerts are received. Check the alerts you are interested in: <https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov>.

2) Make a plan: where to go, out-of-town contact person, etc. During power outages, use texts when possible as they use less data than calls. Prepare to either shelter-in-place or evacuate.

3) Prepare an emergency go-kit for your home and car. Include food and water for at least three days, clothes, radio, medicines, important documents.

 4) Get Involved! There are numerous organizations that utilize volunteers. But most importantly, check on your neighbors and HELP EACH OTHER!

In a life-threatening emergency, call 911. Non-emergency county calls: 311 or 2400-777-0311.

Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/oemhs](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/oemhs) 240-777-2300

BUSINESS MEETING:

Secretary’s Report-The minutes from the November 2015 meeting were distributed and approved per motion of Col. Charles McGee.

Treasurer’s Report-The report included 11/19/15-1/20/16. Ending balance $14,131.31. Report approved per motion of Jan Maalouf.

Allen reports:

1. In May we will discuss future use of our MCA funds. MaryJo will head a committee to investigate this.
2. Spring Social being planned for April.
3. The Pooks Hill site-plan is expected in January. Some residents of the Promenade would like to remove the turning restrictions at Beech and Linden in conjunction with the Planning Board’s potential approval of the plan. As the turn restrictions are part of the B-CC Master Plan, changing them would require an amendment to the Master Plan. Allen urged everyone to keep aware of this situation. The Planning Board meeting is tentative for June 30. We want a big showing at this meeting. Please plan to attend! Very Important!
4. Bethesda County Day School had some recent vandalism. This is a private building and property.
5. Be aware of crime in the neighborhood! We need a chairperson for the Neighborhood Watch Program. Please consider volunteering!
6. We need a new Webmaster! Please contact Jan Maalouf about this.
7. A new “Helper List” will be published in March. Susan Chacko will be taking over responsibility for this list. Please email her at: Susan.Chacko@gmail.com if your child (over 12 years) would like to be included.
8. As stated above, we need a Newsletter Distribution Coordinator.

Village Update by MaryJo: The village continues to host activities and people are enjoying their neighbors, getting to know each other. To get involved contact Mary Jo at mdeering@starpower.net and join the listserv.

Meeting adjourned by motion at 8:30 pm.