

## TWINBROOK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Thursday, March 29, 2007  
Twinbrook Community Recreation Center

The date of the meeting was changed from March 27 to hear a special presentation by the Avalon Bay Company.

The February minutes were approved.

Brigitta Mullican gave the treasurer's report. The March balance in the main account was \$3,113.13. The Voice account has \$1,702.46. The CD has \$1,830; it matures in June 2007. The grand total of the three accounts is \$6,645.59. Costs for office supplies came to \$374; \$170 was received from memberships.

Working with Brigitta, Richard Gottfried proposed a revised TCA financial report. The executive committee approved this revised financial report and it will be used to present the TCA's financial information from now on.

**President's Report** Christina Ginsberg said that Thee Perry is leaving the city. Jennie Kimball gave his report.

### Old Business

**Neighborhood Watch and Public Safety:** Lt. Jim Main said there was nothing to report. He distributed flyers on the Safe Speed program, the new speed camera initiative. At the beginning, one mobile speed enforcement van equipped with a radar camera will be rotated among speed enforcement zones. Several fixed cameras will be added later. In Twinbrook, it is expected that a fixed camera will be posted on Baltimore Road near Rockville High.

The cameras photograph vehicles traveling more than 11 miles over the speed limit. A 30-day warning period began on March 12; violators will receive a warning in the mail. At the end of the warning period (April 11), citations will be issued. Fines for violations will be \$40 but no points will be assigned to driving records. Enforcement locations are subject to change.

For more information about the program, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). For a list of locations throughout Montgomery County, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/police](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/police).

**Neighborhood Services:** Jennie Kimball said that on Saturday, April 28, there will be a condensed version of Rockville University that will address newsletters, cultural diversity issues, and resource information for HOAs and civic associations. The session, "Engaging Rockville's Neighborhoods," will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at noon. To register, call (240) 314-8340 or email Dwayne Jenkins at [djenkins@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:djenkins@rockvillemd.gov). Christina said that this is an excellent workshop and urged residents to attend.

Rick Finney said there is lots of trash and abandoned grocery carts on Twinbrook Parkway. Jennie said the city will look into the problem. For some reason Safeway does not seem concerned about the carts leaving its property. Rick also referred to "lots of" group houses where "no one person takes responsibility" for how the property looks.

At Silver Rock Park, new playground equipment has been installed and trees are being planted to replace those taken down due to hazardous conditions. At Hillcrest Park, the existing playground is being removed and construction will start on new playground equipment.

Jennie said that Thee Perry will leave the city effective April 9. TCA will miss him.

**Twinbrook Neighborhood Plan** The Planning Commission met on March 28 to discuss outreach to Twinbrook concerning how to clarify the plan for residents and how to get support for it. Members of the advisory committee have been asked to stay on through this process; 10 have agreed. The TCA is negotiating with the planning staff

about how best to achieve the desired outreach. To that end, TCA is cosponsoring community input meetings along with the Burgundy Estates Civic Association and the city.

**Business Development and Relations:** John Cox and Amy Susskind of the Mid-Atlantic division of Avalon Bay Communities presented a preliminary proposal to develop part of the Halpine Triangle (the area between Twinbrook Parkway, Ardennes, and Halpine Road) as residential housing. The Food and Drug Administration has been on the premises since 1968 and will remain until its lease expires in May 2009. Avalon Bay understands that the property must be rezoned by the city before the proposal can be considered..

The zoning is I-1 (light industrial) and the developer wants to change it to residential. The current plan is for 240 apartment homes; 60 percent will have 1 bedroom, 40 percent will have 2 bedrooms. Mr. Cox defined them as Class A apartments, renting for \$1.95 per square foot; this translates to \$1,600 per month for one bedroom or \$2,400 per month for 2 bedrooms. There will be assigned parking and entrances on Ardennes and Halpine. Mr. Cox said that, even if people buy near Metro, they are likely to have cars.

The complex will be generally 4 stories or 45 feet, lowered on Halpine Road to 3 stories. Plans include a day care center covering 4,500 square feet. However, there are no provisions being made for extra children at the school as the rents will be too expensive for most people in this area who have children. The market is anticipated to be young professionals recently out of college and working at NIH or in the I-270 corridor and who do not want to buy. Or older people who are retiring may find this attractive.

Of immediate concern to TCA is the extremely close proximity of the entrance and egress to the Halpine/Ardennes intersection, as well as the proposed traffic counts when considering the already-approved Twinbrook Station and Uniwest projects.

**Twinbrook Community Recreation Center.** Marty Coester reported that there were 7,800 visitors last month, attracted in large part, probably, by the basketball tournament. Young people played against five police officers and won. The event kicks off a new series of activities for area youth in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades called "Second Fridays" at Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. Each second Friday there will be a special themed event for kids. March Madness is the first event in the series, honoring the basketball craze that happens every March because of the NCAA Final Four Tournament. Preregistration for March Madness is \$3 for residents and \$5 for nonresidents. Registration at the door it is \$5 for residents and \$7 for nonresidents.

Breakfast with the Bunny was Saturday, March 31; 50 children and their parents attended the event. Parents took pictures of their children sitting on the bunny's lap and eating breakfast with the bunny. Children played games with their parents and all seemed to have a great time.

A Little Princess and Prince Party will occur on May 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. complete with a Royal Tea Party. Boys are invited to the Royal Tea party because mothers who attended the previous years asked that we open the event to boys. The cost is \$10 for residents and \$12 for nonresidents. Preregistration is required Call (240) 314-8830 for more information.

**Traffic and Transportation:** Todd Harrison said that work has begun on the light at Broadwood and Veirs Mill Road. It is expected to be finished in 90 days.

**Membership:** Brigitta asked for volunteers to deliver more membership forms door to door throughout the neighborhood. She said that she and Carol Moran have delivered over 900 membership/application letters. She asked if a few more volunteers could drop off the membership letter on their street.

**Communications:** The Executive Committee was informed by email of the resignation of long-time chair Ben Pauwels. Steve Wilcox will be the acting chair.

**Member at Large, East and West:** No report.

**Library/education:** No report.

**Twinbrook Commons:** No report. JBG was to update TCA but sent Christina an email shortly before the meeting saying that they would not attend the meeting tonight as they have nothing to report..

**Twinbrook Sector Plan:** No report.

**Resident Outreach/International/Historic/Seniors:** No report

**Garden Club/Environment/Parks and Recreation:** No report.

**Education/Library:** No report.

**Rockville Pike Master Plan:** No report.

## **New Business**

Brigitta Mullican spoke about renaming of the Rockville Library. There are currently three names being proposed: the Doug Duncan Library, proposed by County Council member George Levanthal who wants to see something in the county named after the former county executive. The second choice is Rockville Memorial Library in honor of those who have died in Iraq. Brigitta feels that it is premature to have this name because the war is still going on. Harry Thomas said that the Rockville Volunteer Fire department proposed the name. The third alternative is to make no change in the name. Only two libraries in the county—Noyes and Davis—are not named for a geographic location and some feel that Rockville Library will always be remembered for its original name—similar to National Airport. A straw vote taken during the meeting revealed that no one wanted the library named after Mr. Duncan.

A public hearing on the topic was held on March 27. The public may submit comments in writing to Al Roshdieh, Acting Deputy Director, DPWT, 101 Monroe St., 10th floor, Rockville, MD 20850, by fax at (240) 777-7178, or by email at [al.roshdieh@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:al.roshdieh@montgomerycountymd.gov). Comments must be received by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 10.

Richard Gottfried reported on the upcoming City of Rockville FY08 Proposed Budget and CIP budget and the new financial management policy manual. The city is having two public hearings--one on April 16 and one on April 23, both at 7:00pm at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD. The Mayor and Council will then have two work sessions (one in April and one in May) and then will approve the final budget on 5/21.

Rich commented extensively on the new Financial Management Policy Manual citing areas where the city can improve internal controls and authorization and governance. Specific areas noted were the new Enterprise fund's reserve policy, Finance/Budget committee/commission, Investment committee, Audit committee, investment policy, publish the management letter comments and recommendations and response, Insurance policy, Whistleblower policy, Document and retention policy and antifraud policy.

Rich also cited areas of concern such as having a tax rate reduction versus a one time tax credit, the parking fund using over \$1.5 million from interest income and from general fund transfers, the new speed camera revenue budgeted amounts to over \$1million dollars, and how the fy06 numbers did not agree with audited financial statements. Rich requested that everyone appear in person to say something about the budget at the two public meetings.

Jeff Winstel, who joined city staff in November as Historic Preservation Planner, spoke about current efforts to have Glenview Mansion listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He distributed information on how sites are nominated and how private property owners can respond to a nomination. For example, a private property owner

who has a national register-listed property can do anything with the property as long as there is no federal involvement.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 24, 2007 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Twinbrook Community Center. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Hannaford  
Secretary