

**Mckenney Hills-Carroll Knolls Civic Association Meeting Minutes
Capital View-Homewood Park Recreation Building
May 26, 2009**

Tricia Steadman, President, with Board members Tingley, Randall, and Kaplan

President Steadman called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. She welcomed the larger-than-usual number of residents in attendance.

The minutes from April 28 were read and approved by consensus.

Announcements:

*President Steadman gave an update on the now vacant Maryland College of Art and Design (MCAD). Our MH-CK covenant for single-family dwellings was upheld, but now we have an empty building on Georgia Avenue. This building is owned by the Foundation connected with Montgomery College, and is now under open-ended lease to the police department and is being used for canine training. There may be some noise and disruption as a result of this training, but the police presence there is welcome.

President Steadman hopes to have Valerie Ervin as guest speaker at the June 23 meeting, and if so, the entire meeting will be devoted to MCAD. (Council member speaking commitments are only made 20 days in advance.) We need to keep the lines of communication open and make sure that the Council understands that we do not want an abandoned building in our midst. There are several possibilities for its future, including as a church, a recreation center, or a park. All of these require money, so no solution is imminent.

*The demolition of McKenney Hills Alternative School will begin late this summer. A completely new building will be constructed in its place and will be an elementary school. This is supposed to alleviate the crowding at Oakland Terrace and Woodside, but the boundary decisions are yet to be made.

*There were handouts on pedestrian safety and traffic engineering at the sign-in table.

The association e-mail is mh-ck@hotmail.com, the web is mhckcivic.org, and the home page gives information on how to join the listserve.

Special Program:

The speaker for the evening was Officer Joy Patil, Police Dept. Community Liaison. She reports that there has been a decline in crime in MH-CK, with fewer stolen vehicles, partly due to changes in manufacturing, chipped keys, etc.

Theft **from** cars is going up. Lock your cars! Don't leave items in the car, especially iPods, GPS systems, and change. Even gym bags can prompt a break in, even if there is nothing of value in them.

Report suspicious activity in the neighborhood by calling the non-emergency number: 301-279-8000, program it into your cell phone. It rings at the same location as 911, but keeps that line open for true emergencies. Tell them why you are calling, such as unknown persons loitering, peering into car windows, etc. These calls can be anonymous, or you can give your name but request that the police do not first come to your door when checking out a complaint.

You can text crimes to MCPD, but these are web tips, not calls for service. All hotlines are being combined into 240-773 TIPS

About July 1, self-reporting will be possible, You can enter info on an e-mail, and you don't have to wait for a police officer to come and take your report.

The desk at the police station will be manned 24/7, although there had been some thought to a reduction of hours. Silver Spring has 130 officers to patrol 33 square miles, and the force is split into shifts, not all 130 officers are on duty at a time.

When school is out for the summer, there is more vandalism and the number of burglaries goes up, and most of those are during the day. If you need to be away, Officer Patil recommends that you have neighbors picking up mail and newspapers, as it is noticeable if the postman skips your house for a period of time. Let the house look and seem lived in: radios are good, dogs are good. She had Operation Identification forms for us. Filling them out makes it easy to report thefts, for jewelry she recommends putting it on and taking a picture to file.

Q and A followed her report and included the following:

*What about home security systems?

A: They can be good, especially loud alarms as they alert others to the problem. The possible downside is that it takes about 20" for police to get to the house with the security company protocol. It limits the loss, but is not foolproof. Report crimes, an increase in crimes that are reported equals increase in patrol patterns. The Board can also call in that there has been increased chatter on the listserve.

*What about assaults?

A: There has been some increase in robbery. If it occurs, give over the property. Porch lights and photo and movement sensors are good deterrents.

*What about jurisdiction with activity in the parks and their parking lots?

A: For anything occurring in the parks, call the Park Police. For noise ordinances, check the county website.

*What about barking dogs?

A: Animal control is now under the police.

President Steadman thanked Officer Patil for staying longer than scheduled and suggested that further questions could be directed to her via the website and she would relay them. Officer Patil also gave her cell phone #, 240-876-9640, but turns it off at 9:00 p.m.

Reports:

Norman Kaplan, treasurer, explained Income/expenses that will be posted on the Website for MH-CK. While we have funds on hand, most of them are allocated for expenses, such as the newsletter, which will be out the second or third week of June. We now have 77 households with membership in the Association.

He reminded everyone that dues are \$10 per year and can be sent to the MH-CK Civic Association, PO Box 2102, Silver Spring, MD 20915-2102, or online with PayPal, or paid at the door of most events sponsored by MH-CK Civic Association.

OLD Business:

President Steadman said that the Parks committee still needed someone experienced in writing grant proposals.

In addition, the following committees are still in need of chairs:

History/Archivist—the neighborhoods are 50 years old

Social/Events--chair needed

Membership—chair needed

Discussion for the good of the Association:

New curbs and sidewalks were discussed. President Steadman said that she had contacted Tom Pogue regarding Renew Montgomery and had not gotten a response.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next meeting will be June 23 at 8:00 p.m. **It is hoped that Valerie Ervin will attend to address the issue of MCAD.**

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Randall, (Secretary)