

Mckenney Hills-Carroll Knolls Civic Association Meeting Minutes
Capital View-Homewood Park Recreation Building
September 28, 2010

Richard Tingley, President, with Board members Randall and Kaplan

President Tingley called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

A brief business meeting preceded the presentation by Joyce Jessell, Julie Morris, and Jim Tokar from the Montgomery Public Schools re the new school on the site of the McKenney Hills Alternative Learning Center.

Announcements:

Elections will be held in January, with new officers taking office in February.

Reports:

*Treasurer Norman Kaplan reported a net income of \$247.35.

*Tricia Steadman reported that the **Halloween Party** will take place on October 23 from 3-5 p.m., meeting at the McKenney Hills Park. Families must be current with MH-CK dues to participate—there will be a table for check-in and payment of dues. The rain date will be October 30 at the same time. Children will gather at the playground, parade, and return for a craft activity and goody bags. A piñata will be an added attraction, and prizes will be given for both boys and girls in the same age range.

Tricia called for volunteers to bring nut-free refreshments, serve as judges, and help with the activities. Teens can receive community service credit for assisting.

*Jen Scope reported for Brian Bhandari and the **Traffic Committee:**

Sidewalks: Jen Scope and Brian are working on a rough draft of where they recommend that sidewalks be added. The west side of the neighborhood had at least one sidewalk on each street. The goal was that residents had easy access to public transportation (i.e. eliminate sidewalk gaps to Georgia Ave) and kids would have a clear walking path to the new school without zigzagging across the street. The intention is to preserve as many trees as possible. The proposal will likely have a replacement plan for trees, if any, which have to be removed. Once this plan takes better shape, we will layer in crosswalks, speed humps, additional stop signs, etc.

Safe Routes to School: The committee is assessing the need for sidewalks, proposing where. The feeder streets to Gardiner, Hayden, Hildarose, and Douglas are possibilities.

New 4-way stop suggestion: We have received a suggestion, by more than one person, to consider a 4-way stop at Dennis and Gardiner with corresponding crosswalks. The committee would like some feedback on that...please provide your thoughts, both positive and negative with a basis for such so this can be further vetted.

Lighting: Tricia cruised the neighborhood and it appears lighting is sufficient along the streets. She did note some dark areas where the streetlights were either nonfunctioning or malfunctioning and reported them to MoCo.

Speeding: There has been no feedback from the west side of the neighborhood. The committee would like to understand where the issues are and what type of solutions could be recommended prior to drafting a proposal.

Q&A: Closing streets is probably not a possibility. Kensington is an entity unto itself.

***Diane Cameron**, from the Audubon Naturalist Society, spoke of her concern regarding the trees near the new school. She voiced concerns about ground water recharge volume being maintained. The most cost effective is trees. In the Capital View Tributary, 1/3 of the wooded parcels have been cut down for development projects and there is a decline in the stream quality. She said that 500 trees have been tagged, whether to preserve or cut down was not clear to her.

President Tingley introduced our speakers for the evening: Joyce Jessell, **acting director of MCPS Dept of Construction**, Julie Morris, Boundary Studies, and Jim Tokar, site project manager.

Mr. Tokar was the main speaker. The new school will be a LEEDS project, with a vegetative roof, a geothermal system, and an outdoor learning center. IT will be a state of the art school. (The Board of Education will name the school.) The project goes out to bid on October 11, awarded in November with groundbreaking in January of 2011, and opening in September of 2012. He did not foresee roadblocks to construction.

There will be 3 special education classrooms. There is a Memo of

Understanding with the Glenmont Pool to share parking.

In response to the concern regarding the loss of trees, he stated that they ID **significant** trees, in order to preserve as many as possible, and in fact, readjusted the design in order to reduce the number that would be lost. They work closely with Parks and Planning and begin with a Resources Inventory.

It is a small site; there will be T-ball, but no softball. It is planned for more students than expected in the foreseeable future, but if portables have to be used at some point, they will have to be placed on the playground.

Sidewalks are not the responsibility of the MCPS; citizens must petition.

Progress can be followed on the MCPS website and Internet. If we e-mail him, he will update.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. The next meeting will be October 26, at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Randall, (Secretary)

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 listserv.

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.