

WORMAN'S MILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION (WMCA)

APPROVED MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

January 19, 2011

Homewood Retirement Village

Board of Directors Present: Carol Goldstein, President; Allan Carlson, Vice-President; Judy Haines, Treasurer; Lois Benjamin, Director – At – Large; Dick Menzer, Director – At – Large; and Noel Farmer, Secretary

I. Announcements

President Carol Goldstein made the following announcements:

- A. Conservancy Forum: Carol stated that the next Conservancy Forum sponsored by the WMCA would be March 31, 2011 at the Worman's Mill Clubhouse at 7 p.m. She requested that the members in the audience send suggested questions to be used at the Forum to the WMCA Web-Site.
- B. Tax Assessment Forum: Carol indicated that a Tax Assessment Forum sponsored by the WMCA would be held in the Worman's Mill Clubhouse in the month of April. She added that two Frederick City representatives, two Frederick County representatives, one real estate agent, and one mortgage broker would constitute the panel.
- C. March WMCA General Meeting: It was announced that the next WMCA General Meeting would be held at Homewood on March 16, 2011 and feature Frederick City Mayor Randy McClement.
- D. WMCA Dinner Reservations at Homewood: Carol welcomed the audience and announced that 87 members were in attendance for this WMCA General Meeting. She reminded the audience that when a dinner reservation is made, the registrant is responsible for the dinner fee unless a cancellation is submitted; otherwise, the WMCA will have to pay Homewood for the dinner registration, and the WMCA treasury cannot sustain that obligation.

II. Guest Speaker

Carol Goldstein introduced Mrs. Karen Young, Frederick City Alderman, as the guest speaker for the evening. She praised Karen for her willing response to speak with only two weeks notice.

Introduction: Karen introduced her speech with a description of a day in the life of an Alderman in Annapolis. She explained with examples how revenue sources are diminishing at the State level as well as at the municipal level. It was her opinion that the solution to this dilemma is either to raise taxes or reduce services. Karen stated that she was not in favor of raising taxes in this economy.

Accomplishments: Alderman Young offered the following as the two biggest accomplishments to date for the current Frederick City administration:

1. Balanced Budget for 2011 with an eight million dollar deficit to begin with at the start of the process.
2. A professional and civil decorum among the members of this administration – Everyone comes to all of the meetings very well prepared to work out disagreements with constructive approaches in a civil tenor and manner.

Top Ten Challenges for the Future: Karen cited the following as the top ten challenges for the Frederick City administration:

1. Balanced Budget for 2012 while facing a ten million dollar deficit. Substantial cuts were made last year in terms of staff and the Capital Improvement Budget.
2. Compliance with State Waste Water Management Requirements. This will be a fifty five million dollar obligation. They will be looking at requesting the State to minimize the yearly financial obligation on this matter or raise fees and or borrow money. Karen is not in favor of borrowing money.
3. Improve Roads
4. Frederick Order of Police Contract (a negotiating challenge)
5. Pension and Benefit Reform. Frederick City is currently facing an eighty million dollar unfunded liability in this category.
6. Frederick City Keys Contract that expires in March 2011. Karen suggested that one solution would be to implement a RFP (request for proposal from other athletic firms)
7. Communication Advisory Committee for Fort Detrick and the Frederick City community.
8. Sustainability Plan (Reduce energy costs and remain friendly with the environment)
9. Economic Development (conducive to producing jobs in Frederick City)
10. Large Regional Park (Hargett Farm): Karen stated that the Hargett Farm was purchased by the previous administration for the purpose of creating a large regional park, but the current economy will not allow for that intent. It will not be a prudent financial decision to continue with that goal. The current administration will be looking at other potential uses within the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) requirements.

Conclusion: Karen's presentation was concluded with an announcement about the implementation of a Citizen's Satisfaction Survey within the near future for the purpose of creating a diagnostic tool for improvement.

Questions from the audience - the following represents Karen's responses to questions from the audience:

1. Consideration will be given to reviewing “defined contributions” as a strategy for retirement in balancing the budget.
2. Consideration will be given to trash collection being conducted on a once a week basis in balancing the budget..
3. Consideration will be given to changing the retirement age in balancing the budget.
4. Karen indicates that she studies other municipalities in the State and in America for the purpose of looking at best practices in solving budget challenges.
5. The debt limit ceiling for borrowing for Frederick City for a good bond rating is twelve percent of the General fund. She would not recommend exceeding this limit to solve budget challenges.

III. Adjournment

After adjournment was approved, the raffle for the fifty dollar dinner coupon for the Bonefish Restaurant was conducted.

Submitted by,

Noel Farmer, WMCA Secretary