

WORMAN'S MILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION (WMCA)
APPROVED MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING
March 17, 2010 (5:30 p.m.)
Frederick Community College (FCC)

Board of Directors Present: Carol Goldstein, President; Allan Carlson, Vice-President; Judy Haines; Treasurer; Dick Menzer, Director – At – Large; and Noel Farmer, Secretary
Board of Directors Absent: Vicki Myers (illness)

I. Business

President Carol Goldstein reviewed with the audience that she had received 54 member votes in favor of giving to a charity while 8 members voted against this action. The membership of the association during this time was 135 members. It was moved and seconded that \$500.00 be given to the Haiti Relief Fund and \$500.00 be given to the Frederick Food Bank. These two motions were unanimously supported by the audience.

II. Announcements

- A. Carol announced that the WMCA will be sponsoring a Conservancy Candidates' Forum on April 13, 2010 at the Worman's Mill Clubhouse at 7:00 p.m. After reviewing the process for the Forum, she invited all of the membership to attend this event and participate in the audience question and answer portion of this forum.
- B. It was also announced that the May 19, 2010 WMCA General Meeting will feature Mayor Randy McClement as a guest speaker. The Frederick City Director of Planning will also be present for comment.
- C. The last announcement of the evening was that the Conservancy now has a web-site which is functioning at: www.wmconservancy.com

III. Guest Speaker

President Goldstein introduced Karen Young as the newly elected President of the Board of Aldermen and a Worman's Mill resident. Karen's background has been extensive in terms of qualifications for this position. She has been a director of marketing for Farmers and Mechanics National Bank and has operated her own consulting business, Karen Lewis Market Research. She is also a 1998 graduate of Leadership Frederick and has been active in the community, serving on boards or a volunteer with over fifteen community organizations.

Karen announced that her goals were as follows: "right-sizing" staffing and the budget; managing smart growth to ensure sustainability and strengthening the tax base; reviewing the tax equity program with Frederick County and revisiting the tax differential; expanding industrial and commercial growth; recommending a city/county task force to study areas where duplicate services can be eliminated or where departments might be merged; expediting the completion of Monocacy Boulevard; increasing the functionality of the

Neighborhood Advisory Councils; revising employees' benefit packages; revising citizen commission appointments; and addressing the relationship between the county and city.

She indicated that the greatest challenge to date has been facing a ten million dollar deficit based on tax revenue shortfalls and meeting the June deadline of adopting a balanced budget with expense reductions and no property tax increases. Karen stated that some reductions have to be made with the employee benefits package and retirement benefits. The entire budget process will feature transparency with a series of public budget meetings to review each department in terms of goals and expenditures.

Mrs. Young indicated that the first 100 days for this administration has featured the following:

1. Cooperative teamwork between the aldermen and with the Mayor.
2. A well prepared administration for all meetings.
3. A willingness to respond to crises.
4. A revision of the budget process.
5. A review of legislation to revise oversize vehicle parking on some streets.
6. An analysis of the tax equity concern between the county and the city.
7. A review of plans for a Hotel and Conference Center in Frederick (six sites have been identified).
8. A review of snow removal procedures.

Before responding to questions from the audience, she announced that she will be writing a periodic article for the Worman's Mill Monitor in an attempt to share with this community what is happening at City Hall.

Karen's responses to questions from the audience were as follows:

1. There has been resistance to cutting benefits; however, tough choices will have to be made in light of the current economy. The focus will be on current employee benefits. The current Frederick City benefits package rates at the very top in the state. It was offered in the past based on lower salaries; however, the salary package is now in a more favorable rating position with the rest of the State. Salaries and benefits present the largest exposure and opportunity in the budget reduction process.
2. The Hotel and Conference Center sites are down town. There are two sites along Carroll Creek.
3. A focus on resident occupancy violations is being reviewed. It appears that the rental licensing process is a key in this matter.
4. Growth possibilities can only take place in the areas north and east of the city.
5. The status of the Golden Mile is of major concern to the administration. Mixed use of the Frederick Town Mall on this strip is being considered. The Mall is privately owned and no decision has been made as to its renovation.

6. Karen will not support a new park. She wants to enhance the current parks before building a new park. The budget process will not tolerate this kind of expenditure for a new park.
7. The next phase of the Monocacy Boulevard construction is a top priority even though it has been put on hold by the State authorities.
8. Frederick City is responsible for snow removal on the completed streets and alleys in Worman's Mill.
9. She thought that new procedures for Worman's Mill parking during certain extreme weather conditions had promise for consideration.

IV. Adjournment

After adjournment was approved, the raffle for the fifty dollar dinner coupon at the Shamrock was conducted.

Submitted by,

Noel Farmer, WMCA Secretary