

WORMAN'S MILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION (WMCA)

APPROVED MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

September 21, 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. WMCA Slate of Officers for 2012: Carol introduced Mr. Tom Gill, Chair of the Nominating Committee for the WMCA Slate of Officers for 2012. Tom recommended the following slate of WMCA officers for 2012:

1. President, Allan Carlson
2. Vice-President, Carol Goldstein
3. Secretary, Lois Benjamin
4. Treasurer, Anthony Castellano
5. Member At Large, Dick Menzer
6. Member At Large, Bill Levin
7. Member At Large, Ann Mondello

Carol reminded the audience that the vote on this slate will take place at the November 16, 2011 WMCA General Meeting and that nominations can also be received from the floor at this meeting.

B. Holiday Party and January General Meeting: Carol stated that the Holiday Party would feature the duo of Sarno and Hess and that the Mayor and Joe Adkins would present at the January WMCA General Meeting. She also asked if there were any speakers that might be suggested for the 2012 meetings. Tom Gill recommended that we might want to hear from Commissioner David Gray on his perspectives of the Frederick County Government.

C. Town Center Development by Wormald

Carol announced the following meetings regarding the Wormald development of the Town Center:

1. Concerned Residents of Worman's Mill – The Concerned Residents of Worman's Mill will be hosting a meeting at the Clubhouse on September 22, 2011 at 6 p.m. Members from the Wormald Corporation have promised to be present to give a presentation on the plans for the development of the Town Center. Carol encouraged attendance at this meeting.

2. Development Review Conference – A development review conference regarding the construction plans for the Town Center will be held on September 27, 2011 at 140 West Patrick Street in Room C of the City Courthouse. (There is a garage adjacent to the building.) The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and should end at about 11 a.m. If you intend to observe the proceedings, you should be there by about 8:30 since finding a seat may be difficult. The meeting is the first time the applicant and the staff are to discuss technical issues arising from the review period. Although the public does not ordinarily attend such a meeting, those involved are inviting the community to attend. Because design and compliance issues will be discussed for the first time, those who wish to attend, are asked to do so in the capacity of observer. This is so that the many issues needing to be dealt with will be addressed in an orderly, efficient manner. There will be multiple opportunities for public comments and questions during the official public process. If there are any questions from the public/observers, the following process will be in place: 1. At the end of the meeting, written questions are to be turned in to either Jeff Love or Gabrielle Dunn. 2. Time will be given for a response to be formulated so that what is presented is accurate. 3. The questions and responses will be sent to Carol Goldstein, who is acting as conduit. 4. The questions and responses will then be sent to Allan Carlson for distribution to the community through the WMCA e-mail system. Carol strongly encouraged the audience to attend this meeting.
3. November 8, 2011 Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) Meeting: Carol stated that the NAC would have the Wormald Corporation make a presentation to the audience on the plans for the development of the Town Center.

D. Raffle – Carol conducted the raffle for the Bonefish Restaurant and then introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Blaine Young – President of the Board of the Frederick County Commissioners

II. Guest Speaker

Blaine Young, President of the Board of Frederick County Commissioners, stated that he would address the following topics and issues that the WMCA had requested of him:

A. Senior Property Tax Credit – Blaine related that an appointed committee is fashioning the legislation for the Senior Property Tax Credit opportunity. The members are currently studying the state law and how other counties have adopted a similar piece of legislation. The commissioners are expecting to receive a copy of this proposed legislation in October of 2011. The adoption by the commissioners will probably

occur in late January or early February 2012. This credit is expected to be means tested based on annual reoccurring gross income.

- B. Waste to Energy Facility** – After going through the permitting process, it is expected that it will take seven years to complete this project. The project will begin in late May or early June 2012 and cost 500 hundred million dollars. The facility will be situated at Route 85 at the McKinney site. Frederick and Carroll Counties will share in the costs. If Carroll County withdraws from the project, they will have to pay a substantial penalty. Washington and Howard Counties are very interested in participating in this project if Carroll County withdraws. This project has to be reviewed and approved by many agencies such as the EPA, etc. to secure that safe pollution and environmental conditions would exist. If we don't construct such a facility, we have to find a new land fill. We are currently spending millions to ship out our county trash. Since 2005, we have spent 61 million dollars to ship out our county trash. The savings from this venture will be substantial in the long term over the next 30 years. The bonds that will be created for this project will not count against the Frederick County debt service. This is a non partisan issue since the Federal Government and the Maryland Governor are strongly supporting this project.
- C. Charter** – Frederick County is the eight largest county in the state of Maryland and all seven larger counties have adopted the charter form of government. This is a local constitution that would mean local control with enabling legislation. The Charter Committee will complete its work by July 4, 2012, and the public can vote on the proposed Charter during the Presidential Election in 2012 and, if adopted, would be effective in 2014. The document will be kept as simplistic as possible; and after the election, if the Charter is adopted, additional amendments can be added later to the main document. The costs for a new Charter form of government depend on who you elect to the offices (It could be more or less.).
- D. Ethics Policy** – The new Frederick County Ethics Policy is in response to the Act of the General Assembly of Maryland. It requires that Frederick enact a new local Ethics Policy and legislation. Some of the new changes will require more members to serve on the ethics board and there will be stricter language on conflict of interests for a commissioner with detailed disclosure language. This language is stricter for commissioners than for members of appointed commissions.
- E. Privatization** – The goals of privatization are to reduce the costs and size of government and to keep Frederick County affordable to live in for now and for the future. All efforts in this endeavor will be about salary and benefits and efficiencies. The commissioners are planning to reduce paid holidays for employees, reduce the number of sick leave days for employees, and to increase the vestment period timeline. They intend to phase out the defined benefits plan for non-uniform employees and go to a defined contribution plan for new hires. They will remain with the

defined benefits plan for uniform employees in order to remain competitive with surrounding counties. The commissioners' current philosophy is to have taxes pay for necessary core services and have other services outsourced or combined in collaborative efforts with other governmental agencies. There are three privatization committees working on this agenda, and they are exploring areas such as internal audits, fleet management, warehouse management, etc. Request for Proposals (RFP) will be used in targeted areas of government services. It is possible that some employees will lose their jobs if the new firm or organization doesn't hire them.

F. Tax Differential With Municipalities – The Frederick County Commissioners are working with Frederick City on this approach and both entities want to move in this direction. There are some differences of opinions that have to be resolved.

Carol Goldstein thanked Blaine Young for his presentation and time in responding to the requests from the WMCA.

Submitted by:

Noel T. Farmer, WMCA Secretary