

MARTINS WOODS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2022

MEETING START TIME: 2:56PM

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDEES: MR. DWAYNE STANTON MR. KEITH LOUGHERY
MR. LONNIE DAWKINS MS. JESSICA HOLLAND

MEETING GOAL: Discuss plans for the future of Martins Woods community and establish board member leadership roles within the community association.

MEETING DETAILS:

Before the official start of the meeting, attendees received copies of the meeting agenda and were asked to sign an attendance/contact information sheet, and participate in an icebreaker. The meeting began with opening remarks by Mr. Dwayne Stanton, and an outline of discussion topics were projected on a large screen. Below is a summary of the discussion:

- Mr. Stanton explained circumstances causing lapse in time since last community meeting and issued apology to community members/ announced Mr. Mark Applegate's (not in attendance) resignation from MWCA
- MWCA (Martin's Woods Community Association) should be an organization having a common interest
 - Slogan for MWCA is "Neighbors helping neighbors"
 - Community members expressed preference to have community association over HOA
 - If some neighbors within Martins Woods want to Opt out of participating in MWCA, they cannot take advantage of benefits
 - Need New Tax I.D maybe 501 (c) / (3) nonprofit organization? Need more information about qualifications for this type of nonprofit
 - May need to consult local politicians for guidance/ resources/need lawyers in community to help/advise
 - Need to setup bank account for MWCA (Mr. Keith Loughery will look into this further)*
 - Majority neighbor participation important because we want to be a strong, respectable community/ helps create broader reach among local political representatives
- MWCA website is up and running
 - Website will continue to improve, especially with more community input/ suggestions/ participation
 - Community members of Martins Woods are encouraged to use/ explore the community website and to inform other neighbors (who were not in attendance) to visit website as well
 - Community website should be used to communicate, pay community association dues, view community meeting information and upcoming events, share suggestions and concerns
- Please join Facebook group page
 - Name of page is: **Martins Woods Community Association**
 - Contribute to conversation on group page
 - Group is private
 - Can use to communicate with neighbors

MINUTES BY J.H

- Need Administrators
- Please share public information only
- Need more neighbors to volunteer for leadership positions including:
 - COPS/ **Community Oriented Policing Services** (coffee club volunteer attendees): Coffee club meets with police officers to represent neighborhood and discuss community issues (For more information visit safety tab on MWCA website)/ two volunteers so far (need more)/1. Jean Holland 2. Keith Loughery
 - Block Captains: Representative from each block within Martins Woods that checks in with neighbors / two volunteers so far (need more)/ 1. Kari Muhammad 2. Sally Loughery
 - Committees (Hospitality, Communications, Utilities, Public Relations)
 - Hospitality: Provide refreshments for community meetings/events, organize fundraising/donations
 - Communications: Gathers important information to share with community/ "See something, say something, so someone can do something" / one volunteer so far (need more)/
1. Ms. Audrey Johnson (able to volunteer on part-time basis)
 - Utilities: Neighborhood maintenance
 - Public Relations- Meet with public officials to discuss neighborhood concerns, point of contact for news outlets
 - Sergeant at Arms: Maintains peace within neighborhood/ will vote on during next community meeting/one volunteer: Danny Basile
- Contact information shared at meeting with MWCA is private
 - Contact information will only be available on need to know basis
 - Please do not share other neighbor's personal information, instead, please refer neighbors to MWCA website (www.martinswoods.org) for guidance/help/ more information/ ways to participate
- How should we meet in the future? / how often?
 - New Carrollton Library/ pricey, time and space constraints
 - Need more meeting place ideas
 - Should we meet every other week/ quarterly/ virtual/in-person/ monthly/mix of all?
 - If something happens we can arrange meeting to discuss issues
 - Meeting attendees requested to revisit these questions later in the meeting/ also noted that quarterly meetings might be a better way to stay in touch
 - Follow-up meeting in a month? Maybe end of August? Before/ after Labor Day?
 - Meeting attendees agreed they prefer to decide date of next community meeting, after Labor Day holiday
- Cpl. U. Jones
 - Police officer who is point of contact for neighborhood
 - Cpl. Jones business/contact cards provided at meeting
 - Need her guidance when seeking information about permits
 - Very responsive and helpful/ proactive
 - Valuable to have law enforcement help
 - Need to inform residents when it is appropriate to call police/emergency services (crime in progress/injury), then MWCA will discuss how issue occurred/ preventive solutions

MINUTES BY J.H

- Noise issues
 - Meeting attendees voiced concerns about loud music in late hours in Martins Woods and New Carrollton
 - Need to discuss with Cpl. Jones our concerns about noise/ jurisdiction noise
 - Is there existing ordinance in New Carrollton?
 - Cut-off time for music? Meeting attendees agreed cut-off time for music is needed/ noise has changed/possible to address between neighbors?
 - Do not approach residence personally, please call authorities and they will handle concerns (residents can contact Cpl. Jones)**
- Who should be included in MWCA?
 - Should homes located on Riverdale Rd., adjacent to Martins Woods neighborhood, be invited to participate in MWCA?
 - Attendees voted “yes” in the affirmative
 - Need to consult county records
 - Should homes in Martina Terrace be invited to participate in MWCA? / need to research if Martina Terrace is part of Martins Woods?
- Community members should pay attention to things that seem odd in neighborhood/ may help other neighbors in need of assistance
- Speed bumps/ cameras needed throughout neighborhood?
 - Would speed bump/ camera installation throughout neighborhood slow motorists down?
 - Motorists traveling through neighborhood are not obeying STOP signs
 - Need to research who we should notify about issue and ask about additional efforts to enforce speed limits
- Parking issues
 - Hard to turn into neighborhood because of parked cars on corners/ people parking too close to stop signs
 - People who are not residents of Martins Woods park vehicles in neighborhood to sell or to catch bus
 - Cars belonging to non-Martins Woods residents park in front of homes in neighborhood and perform pickup/drop off with school buses / how was this arranged? Were Martins Woods residents notified?
- New sidewalk installation along Riverdale Rd. provides safer passage for pedestrians to Metro
- Will Riverdale Rd. be repaved? Roadwork/ inclement weather etc. cause potholes and uneven pavement to form
- Maglev train concerns
 - Will increase dump truck transit nearby
 - Will remove green spaces
 - Residents in surrounding areas may experience vibrations
 - Not beneficial for PG County residents
 - Devastating health, economical, and environmental impacts
 - Home values may suffer/ decreased property value
 - Need to create better awareness surrounding this issue

MINUTES BY J.H

- Will try to approach more representatives about our concerns/ public officials may be able to better advise us on best approach
- Garbage pickup issues:
 - Need better garbage collection/garbage is dropped in street/sloppy pickup/foul smell/ broken glass/trucks drive too fast
 - Please email or dial 311 to report garbage collection issues/ take a picture of issue to include with report
 - Can also directly report garbage issues to Bates Trucking Trash Removal Inc.
 - Reports encourage inspectors to come out and investigate issues
- Are community members interested in having a Block Party?
 - Maybe during September?
 - Meeting attendees voted “no” to host Block Party in September 2022/ too soon/ need more time to prepare/but want to revisit topic in future for spring 2023
- Bus Stop Concerns:
 - Some residents have been experiencing disturbances by adolescents at nearby bus stop
 - Need to find out best way to report/ prevent disturbances
- Vote on MWCA board positions
 - During the meeting, community members voted unanimously (32-0) to elect the following community members to board roles
 - President: Mr. Dwayne Stanton
 - Vice President/Vice President of Communications (community members also voted to combine these roles): Mr. Lonnie Dawkins
 - Secretary: Ms. Jessica Holland
 - Treasurer: Mr. Keith Loughery*
- Should dues be collected online? Possible methods of payment include:
 - Zelle
 - Cash App
 - Personal check
- Big Trucks Concern
 - Tags on trucks are personal not commercial
 - Take pictures of large commercial vehicles believed to be in violation/obstructing flow of traffic and send to 311
 - New Carrollton has signs posted throughout neighborhoods prohibiting commercial vehicles
 - Need signage prohibiting commercial vehicle parking in Martins Woods?
- Trespassing concerns
 - Some neighbors have had people trespassing through their yard/ taking a shortcut from Martins Terrace
- Senior home/ Assisted Living concerns
 - Need to find out what types of businesses are/not permitted
- When is the best time to host future meetings?
 - Community members collectively stated that Sunday’s around same time as current meeting (2:45pm-4:45pm) was best
- At the conclusion of the meeting, meeting attendees introduced themselves by name and street/ gift card prize was presented to one community member

MINUTES BY J.H

- Closing Remarks
 - Thank you to community members for attending/ participating in community meeting from Mr. Stanton and on behalf of MWCA board members/ Hopes to do more and progress
 - Mr. Dawkins made additional remarks/ need everyone's help/ need more participation from community members so that our presence is respected by local officials and we can achieve goals
 - Each board member voiced their gratitude for community support/ confidence in their abilities to carry out responsibilities of positions

MEETING END TIME: 4:23pm

UPDATE:

** Please disregard contact information for Officer Jones, she has been promoted and will no longer be the point of contact; another officer will take over performing these duties. Details will be available in the future, when more information is provided to MWCA**