

KMCA Executive Committee

Minutes

January 20, 2011

Attending: Marci Lavine Bloch, Cynthia Brandt Campagna, Marilyn Lawlor, Jay Marcus, Selena Snow

1. Meeting with BF Saul - Ellen Bogage of Chesapeake Strategies and Vincent Burke of B.F. Saul (vince.burke@bfsaulco.com; 301-986-6350) met with the Board to discuss plans for the proposed Wheaton Redevelopment (www.wheatonsnewdowntown.org). The current proposals involve WMATA and County-owned property including the Metro station, MidCounty Regional Services Center and the parking lot opposite the Service Center. B.F. Saul was chosen by the County through an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) process. It is hoping to erect a building above the Metro that will include office space for a potential government client, along with a hotel and apartment and retail space. The current parking lot will be converted to public space. They are currently engaged in a 6-month planning process that will conclude in March.

In the discussion, Board members raised numerous concerns including: increased traffic in the area, the continuing problems with safety in Wheaton, noise from adjacent main road and potential impact on the school system.

2. Reports -

a. Treasurer - \$3015.89 is on hand, but the new signs cost approximately \$750 and renting meeting space has cost \$120 for the past three meetings. There are 106 paid members and 30 whose membership is expiring in the next two months.

b. Parks - the recent meeting about the Kemp Mill Urban Park presented a plan to replace the current park layout with a smaller pond, three pools and two waterfalls, along with an expanded playground. Selena voiced concerns about long-term maintenance and space utilization. The plan is headed to the Planning Board and is slated to be carried out during fiscal years 2013-2018.

3. Upcoming meeting - March 7

a. Nancy Navarro is attending

b. Sherry Glisson - will present information about Oxford House

c. Report about Kemp Mill Urban Park redevelopment

4. Montgomery County Civic Federation - the Board discussed whether or not to join the Federation. The consensus was not to rejoin. Board members noted that the Federation is not addressing any of the issues that are of major concern to the KMCA and seemed disinterested in the KMCA's position about an issue of local importance (the sale of the Berman Hebrew Academy). Therefore, it is unclear what benefits the KMCA would obtain from joining.

5. Other business

- concerns about shady vendors canvassing. Most recently it was a tree service. The Board agreed that it was a good idea to caution members about hiring tree services without references as they may not have appropriate insurance and licenses to carry out relatively dangerous work.

- The Board agreed to offer Associate Membership to local merchants in the shopping center and in the neighborhood. Associate members would be listed on the Website and on agendas of meetings. A \$20-\$25 annual fee was thought to be appropriate.