

Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association  
Minutes of October 19, 2005 meeting

Joe Rosenberg, President, called the meeting to order.

**Old Business:**

1. Minutes of the May 11, 2005 meeting.

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the May 11, 2005 meeting.

**Vote:** Approved.

2. Bob MacDowall presented the Treasurer's Report (see appendix).

**Discussion:** How many members have paid dues? (As of the meeting, 374 out of 660.)

**Motion:** To approve the Treasurer's Report, as presented at the meeting.

**Vote:** Approved.

3. Discussion and report on landscaping traffic triangles:

- Joe Rosenberg emphasized that the current discussion was about landscaping one traffic triangle as a test case, after which landscaping of other triangles *would be considered* by RCHCA
- Premise is the cost will be shared between RCHCA and individuals in the vicinity of the triangle who would contribute plantings and upkeep
- Only the McNeely triangle has upkeep paid for by RCHCA
- Winnie Holbrooke has plan from Jane Godfrey and will submit an updated request for the Littledale and Haverhill triangle by the end of October
- Winter newsletter will contain a report on the current landscaping policy

4. It was proposed that the neighborhood organize to permit plowing of snow on both sides of the streets by parking on a given side of the street before a snow, then moving all cars to the other side of the street after the first plowing. Proposal did not gather momentum.

5. Covenants Chair report (Shannon Hamm):

- Brief summary of covenants and approval status
- New Rock Creek Hills, Inc. approval signs presented
- Question: how high can a fence be? Answer: Have never approved a fence over 6 feet high
- Question: what about electrical generators in yard? Answer: Not a covenants issue

**New Business:**

6. Beltway noise (Joe Rosenberg) – has the noise level increased since the south-side noise barrier was erected? Discussion of possible north-side noise barrier – said to not be effective because RCHCA is “too high above the beltway. Furthermore, cost of ~\$50,000 would require legislative action to pay for construction. Nearly unanimous

sentiment that a letter should be sent to the State Highway Admin., asking that a new noise survey be done. Several dissenters think that there is no chance that SHA will act.

7. On behalf of a neighbor, Jane Godfrey asked about helicopter noise. It was recommended that the neighbor should contact the president of RCHCA.

8. **Speaker:** Jim Fustero, representing the Montgomery County recycling program

- 41% of all residential waste is paper and cardboard
- New recycling contract, light green trucks, 2-man crews with compactor, done by 2:30 before busses are dropping off children
- Recycled plastics should only be bottles with necks, because of the process used to melt the plastic
- New sign available for yard trim baskets – sticks better
- For scrap metal pickup, call by Friday 9 AM, pickup will be the following Monday – bicycles, pipe, etc.
- Five (5) special pickups may be scheduled per year, call by Friday 9 AM
- Will take latex paint – use a paint dryer or leave open to dry out first
- Toxic substances – may be dropped off at the Shady Grove center on Thursday & Friday
- Should have RCHCA net signed up on their list serve
- Lids of similar materials (e.g., plastic on plastic) are OK; not dissimilar materials like metal lids on glass bottles
- For security, paper with personal or confidential information should be shredded or trashed
- A number of handouts, signs, etc., were available to attendees

**New Business continued:**

9. Discussion of gun shots being heard in the neighborhood. Anyone with information should contact the president of RCHCA. Also, a deer was killed by an arrow in the vicinity of 9600 W. Bexhill.

10. Traffic Survey (Transportation Chair, Alexa Freeman):

- Survey received many responses – “ a folder full”
- Problem areas included
  - Pedestrian safety
  - Traffic speed
  - Traffic volume
  - Commuter traffic cutting through the neighborhood
- People on busy streets were more likely to support traffic calming measures such as speed humps
- Montgomery County Dept. of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) will tailor the type of traffic survey that they will do to the type of solutions that people from the area in question are willing to accept. DPWT’s Head of Traffic Safety specifically requested that we identify the street and block location(s)

where traffic issues are of concerns and indicate in advance whether speed bumps would be an acceptable solution.

- Three remedies considered – access restrictions, traffic calming, and sidewalks
- Joe Rosenberg proposed that information would be included in the next newsletter, with a potential vote at the next meeting
- Two kinds of speed humps: standard and flat; primary roads like Kensington Parkway can only have flat humps
- After surveying, the county will only implement a proposed remedy if 80% of the “block”, i.e., the people in the immediate vicinity, say yes to the remedy
- Other traffic calming techniques include:
  - Painted parking areas
  - Traffic islands
  - Curb extensions
- Question: Are the results of the survey to be made available? Apparently not, because they were not collected in a format that lends itself to summary
- Comment: the intersection at Elrod and Old Spring needs a stop sign
- Comment: RCHCA did a traffic survey ~10-15 years ago
- The more specific the request(s) for a survey, the greater the likelihood that the county will proceed with the survey
- Sidewalks are deemed to be very effective
- Traffic cameras are not an option in Maryland
- Annexation by town of Kensington was supported by some respondents
- The conclusion was to allow members to raise specific traffic issues in advance of the next meeting for members to vote on, including the type of solutions that are acceptable. This would comply with the DPWT request for such specifics before any traffic survey is undertaken.

11. The president thanked the Chair of the Communications Committee, Jed Dinger, for his efforts to produce informative and attractive newsletters. Also: the correction of the date for the Halloween parade/potluck was reiterated.

12. Motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 9:03 PM.

Appendix – RCHCA Treasurer’s Report – 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Summary

<b>Account balance (July 1, 2005)</b>		\$21,012.66
<b>Total income</b>		6,570.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>		1,080.33
<b>Account balance (Sept. 30, 2005)</b>		\$26,502.33
<b>Reserves</b>	10,000.00	
<b>Balance – reserves</b>	\$16,502.33	