



SECTION 5 OF THE VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

Date: June 6, 2006
Time: 7:30pm
Place: 5906 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase Village Hall
Present: Margy Abbott; Peter Gray; Frances L. Higgins; Farooq Hussain;
Ira Rosenbaum; Andrew Smith; 8 Section 5 residents

1. Minutes

Andrew welcomed everyone. He moved that the May 9, 2006, Council meeting minutes be approved as presented; Ira seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Citizens' Concerns and Suggestions to the Council

A resident of Woodbine St. said that he and several other residents are putting together a 5 k race in memory of Ellen Schneider, a former resident of Woodbine St., who died in February, 2006. It will be held Sunday, October 16, 2006, at 8:00am, at Candy Cane Park. They have 35 to 40 volunteers to plan the event. The proceeds from the run will be donated to the B-CC High School scholarship fund and the Montgomery County Mental Health Association. They hope to have 400 to 500 participants-adults, children as well as pets. The event will cost approximately \$7,500 and will charge participants \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. The resident said that he plans to appeal to the other Chevy Chase towns for donations and would like for Section 5 to contribute money for this event because Ellen lived here. There was some discussion.

Andrew said that he would like Section 5 to donate money to this event. Ira said that Section 5 has given money to the Katrina and the 9/11 funds and he supports giving money to Ellen's Run. Margy suggested that Section 5 give \$5,000. Andrew moved that Section 5 donate \$5,000 to Ellen's Run; the Council voted unanimously to donate \$5,000 to Ellen's Run.

A Williams Lane resident said that he had received a copy of the Somerset Town Council Security Committee Safety Report and suggested that the Council remind its residents periodically about actions which they can take to keep the town safe.

An Underwood St. resident asked the Council if it is considering adding additional police protection. Farooq said that the Council has not decided to add additional police protection. Farooq also said that he has placed all security and neighborhood watch documents and special reports on crime alerts and statistics on the web site which residents can access. Farooq also offered to provide the Underwood St. resident with the points of contact at Somerset Town Security Committee, Montgomery County Police Department and with neighboring municipalities that would be able to offer the resident with a detailed view as to the conclusions of the Somerset reports conclusions that additional security patrols were of insignificant additional value in improving security and alternative measures carried far greater effectiveness.





A Thornapple St. resident asked if she could read a one page statement about her difficulties which she and her husband have experienced with the Montgomery County permitting process. She gave out copies of her statement and then read it. She also played a 3 minute tape of her hearing before the Montgomery County Appeals Board and left the recording with the Section Manager. She asked the Council if it would post her statement on the web site. There was some discussion about the fact that a Thornapple St. resident had read a 3 page statement to the Council at the May 9th Council and the demands made in that statement had been addressed in the May Minutes and additionally the statement that had been circulated at the meeting and elsewhere including having been received by both the Washington Post and the Gazette had also been placed on the web site as an associated document to the Minutes. Andrew said that he personally preferred that this statement not be placed on the web site and that he had objected to the previous letter being placed on the web site. Margy moved that the first 3 pages of the resident's statement be placed on the web site but not the petition; Peter seconded the motion. Peter, Margy, Andrew and Farooq voted yes and Ira voted no.

A resident asked the Council what is the criteria for placing residents' statements on the web site. There was some discussion of this matter. Andrew said that the Council would decide on the criteria at a later meeting.

3. Discussion of Planning for Municipal Zoning Authority

Andrew said that Section 5 has always depended on the County's zoning authority but now that HB1232 will become law in October, 2006, Section will now be able to pass its own ordinances pertaining to zoning. He also said that Section will move slowly in considering using this new authority.

3. Discussion of Employing an Independent Non-resident Professional Building Inspector

Andrew said that Alan Beal is a home inspector who presently works for the town of Chevy Chase View, Martin's Additions and the Town of Chevy Chase as a building inspector. Margy said that the Council is not certain that it wants to begin exercising its new zoning authority but there are areas in which Section 5 needs outside expertise and the issuance of building permits is one of those areas. She said that Section 5 needs to employ an independent non-resident professional building inspector who would manage the entire building permit process. A resident said that Section 5 should contact the other Chevy Chase towns and learn what they are doing about implementing the new zoning authority. Margy said that Section 5 needs help with the building permit process and will address zoning at a later time. Another resident raised concern regarding potential conflict of interest with a building inspector. Specifically, Mr Beal was retained by a Thornapple Street resident to prepare a letter supporting her objection to a variance request by a neighbor. The Council agreed to ensure that conflict of interest issues would be specifically addressed with Mr Beal and that an appropriate No Conflict of Interest agreement would be signed between the Section and Mr Beal prior to his being retained as a Building Inspector and consultant to the Section.





Margy moved that Section 5 employ Alan Beal as an independent, non-resident professional building inspector and as a consultant to help develop a building site protocol for Section 5 with a cap of 10 hours per month at \$125 per hour for the months of June, July and August; If the consultant requires additional hours in this period Council will review the request as required. Peter seconded the motion. There was some discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion of Personnel Matter

Andrew said that the matter of giving the town manager an increase in salary had been postponed at the last Council meeting but the Council had put an additional \$5,000 in the personnel budget item. Margy said that Section 5's manager is not compensated in line with positions in neighboring municipalities. Farooq said that the entire compensation package for the manager needs to be set up alongside the salary adjustment to ensure that the Section Manager's roles and responsibilities are appropriately described and that the relationship and duties of the Section Manager with the Council and the Section as a whole are consistent with the Section Charter and share comparable arrangements for similar positions with other neighboring municipalities. . Andrew moved that the manager be given a \$5,000 raise effective July 1, 2006; Margy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A second motion to move that the compensation package for the Section Manager be prepared by September and that this package may determine that additional adjustments may be required was moved by Margy, and seconded by Farooq and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

Margy said that the financial health of Section 5 is sound.

6. Building Inspector's Report

Permit issued: 3714 Thornapple St. – replace back and side yard fence

7. Manager's Report

- National Flood Insurance Program
Ira moved that Section pass a Resolution of Intent to Enter the National Flood Insurance Program; Margy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- The manager asked the Council if it will pay extra to have its trash collection company collect recyclables on the day after a holiday. The manager will contact the trash company to determine if it has the personnel and equipment to do this and report at the September meeting.
- The manager will get some bids to replace the Section 5 signs.
- The July 4th parade will ***begin*** with the singing and pledge and will end at Underwood Street thus eliminating the necessity for small children to go back to the top of Williams Lane and then return once more to Underwood St where the moon bounce, ponies and other activities will have been set up.
- The Council agreed to pay a service to collect road kill on the town's streets.

Andrew moved that the meeting adjourn and it passed unanimously.

