

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

Date: October 10, 2006
Time: 7:30pm
Place: 5906 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase Village Hall
Present: Margy Abbott; Peter Gray; Frances L. Higgins; Ira Rosenbaum; Andrew Smith; 9 Section 5 residents

1. Minutes

Andrew welcomed everyone. He moved that the September 19, 2006, Council meeting minutes be approved as presented; Margy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Chevy Chase Historical Society Report

Mary Sheehan, President of the Chevy Chase Historical Society, thanked Section 5 for its contribution to the video project. She presented the Council with ten free copies of the video, "Chevy Chase, Maryland: A Streetcar to Home". She said that Section 5 could purchase 50 or more copies at a price of \$5.00 per copy. She also gave the Council a copy of an order form which may be given to Section 5 residents. A copy of this form will be placed in the December newsletter.

3. Citizens' Concerns and Suggestions

A. Fence Permit Exception

A resident whose house is on a corner lot has applied for a fence to extend past the front foundation line of the house; this application was rejected because the fence regulations state that a resident must show a necessity for the fence and the application must be approved by the Council. The resident said that she would like to install a fence for security and privacy reasons. There is now a two foot high brick wall along the Connecticut Avenue side of the property and she would like to install an iron fence on the brick wall not to exceed four feet. She would install a four foot wooden picket fence along the other three sides of the property. There was some discussion. Andrew moved that the resident be allowed to install the iron fence on the brick wall and the iron fence and brick wall will not exceed 4 ft. in height and a wooden picket fence not to exceed four feet in height along the other three sides of the property; Ira seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Speed Bumps

A Woodbine Street resident brought a petition asking the Council to install speed bumps on Glendale Road and on the section of Woodbine Street from Glendale Road to Brookville Road. This petition was signed by 16 of the 18 people who live on Glendale Road and the block of Woodbine Street from Glendale Road to Brookville Road. This resident said that this number is 86% of the residents canvassed. The residents are concerned about the excessive speed of motorists and the volume of traffic which they believe comes from motorists trying to access Brookville Road from East-West Highway. One resident said that if the Council installs speed bumps on Woodbine Street, the traffic may be rerouted onto other Section 5 streets where there are no speed bumps. A resident of Williams Lane for 43 years believes that the speed of motorists and volume of traffic has increased considerably in those years; he would like to have speed bumps on Williams Lane. He also said that maybe the Council should survey Section 5 residents and if the majority of residents in a specific block would like

speed bumps, then bumps would be installed; if, however, the majority of residents in a specific block do not want speed bumps, then bumps would not be installed. Ira said that he has some concerns about emergency vehicles not being able to navigate the speed bumps. **The manager will determine the cost of installing speed bumps, and the height and width they should be and report at the November meeting. The manager will also determine the cost of renting portable speed bumps because the Council may use portable speed bumps in conducting an experiment to determine the effectiveness of speed bumps in traffic control.** The Council members will come to the November meeting with suggestions for traffic control in Section 5.

4. Municipal Zoning Authority – Alan Beal’s Report

Alan said that the State legislature passed a bill which became effective October 1, 2006. This bill granted zoning authority to incorporated municipalities in Montgomery County. This authority would allow Section 5 to limit lot coverage, set backs, and house height. Alan said that he works for Chevy Chase View, Martin’s Additions, and the Town of Chevy Chase as a building inspector. A resident asked Alan if he will be available to residents who live in houses which abut building projects; Alan said that he would be available. Alan said at the beginning of each building project that he will conduct a meeting attended by the resident who has the building project and representatives from his/her construction company. Alan will present the building site protocol at this meeting. The Council asked Alan to create a building site protocol, a revision of the building permit application and a revision of the permitting fees and give them to the manager. He will email these documents to the manager this week and she will forward them to the Council. The Council will review these documents before the next meeting and make a decision concerning them at the November meeting.

5. Children at Play Signs

A Williams Lane resident said that he believes that the Children at Play signs alert motorists to the presence of children and thus makes the Section safer. There was some discussion. Andrew said that he would like to retain the Children at Play signs that exist in Section 5 but not to install any more signs. The other Council members agreed with this.

There was some discussion of the presence of basketball goals which are placed at the curb facing the street which allows people to use the public street as the basketball court. Andrew expressed his concerns about the liability of the town if someone is injured while playing basketball. The manager will provide the Council members a copy of David Podolsky’s opinion concerning basketball goals on public streets which he wrote earlier and the matter will be discussed further at the November meeting.

5. Donation to B-CC Rescue Squad

The manager will call Farooq and ask him to contact the other Chevy Chase municipalities about the amount of money which each one will give to the rescue squad. Ira said that the rescue squad has a deficit this year and is looking for donations to help defray this deficit.

6. Treasurer’s Report

Margy said that the town has received more money from the State this year than last but that because there doesn’t seem to be a consistent system into when we

receive the checks and the amounts that we're not sure yet if this is significant. She recommended that the town renew its CD with PNC Bank if the rate is at least 5.1%.

7. Manager's Report

The manager said that after the large oak tree fell at 3803 Thornapple St., she engaged a licensed arborist to inspect the other two large oaks on Thornapple St. This arborist said that the oak tree at 3800 Thornapple St. has some problems at its base and maybe should be removed. The manager would like to get a second opinion about the health of this tree. The Council agreed to do this.

The manager asked the Council if residents with building projects should be required to notify their abutting neighbors. The Council said that this requirement will be part of the building site protocol.

The County sent a crew to repair the storm drain at the south west corner of Underwood St. and Thornapple Pl.; this drain cover was collapsing. The project has been completed. Andrew moved that the meeting be adjourned; Ira seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 14, 2006, at 7:30pm, at the Village Hall, 5906 Connecticut Avenue.