

Sandy Spring Civic Association
Ross Boddy Community Center, Sandy Spring, MD 20860
(Meeting in Person and Virtually by Zoom)

December 9, 2024, Meeting

Attendance:

Board Members – Dr. Daryl Thorne, President; Christine Hill Wilson, Treasurer; Douglas Farquhar, Recording and Correspondence Secretary. Participating remotely on the Zoom platform were Bill Thomas, Parliamentarian, and Basile “Whit” Whitaker, Vice President

Other SSCA members – Two physically present, eight members (in addition to Board members) online

Guests: Judy Hruz, Greater Olney Community News (by video)

Attendance Total (approximate): 16

Meeting called to order: 6:35 p.m.

The minutes of the October 2024 and November 2024 meetings were approved.

The Treasurer's Report for October 31 and November 30 (attached) were presented and accepted.

The Transportation Committee (Kristen Prophet) stated that the effort to address safety issues on Norwood Road would be addressed later in the meeting, and she had nothing much else to report, other than that there are several pending 311 requests, mostly about removing downed trees and limbs.

The Ashton Village Plan Implementation Advisory Committee reported that, at a recent meeting, they had discussed the Korean Mission Church proposal to put a large center (the church is calling it an “Adult Day Care Center”) on Route 108 just east of the large power transmission lines. The Committee approved a letter to be sent to the Planning Board and the County Council expressing all the concerns of the community about the proposal, including the large amount of traffic and the inconsistency of the proposed buildings – which Kathleen Wheeler said looked like a “Rockville hotel” – with the rural atmosphere of the area. She added that the footprint of the buildings was about 40,000 square feet, and that the Church has been reported only to have 20 members, so the purpose of the center appeared to be “lucrative.” Doug noted that a representative of the Church has been scheduled to address the SSCA at its January meeting, so SSCA can decide at that point whether to take a position on the Church’s application.

Daryl noted that the dues to be paid for the 2025 calendar year can be paid at the 2024 rates, but only if the payments are made on or before December 31, 2024.

Someone commented that the building that replaced the Cricket Book Store in Ashton has been constructed, and the building looks very much like the façade of the building proposed by the Korean Mission Church, although it has a front that looks like a teepee.

The slate of officers was presented and unanimously approved. Effective at our meeting in January 2025, the officers will be Dr. Daryl Thorne, President; Basile “Whit” Whitaker, Vice President; Christine Hill Wilson, Treasurer; Kristen Prophet, Recording Secretary; Douglas Farquhar, Correspondence Secretary; and Bill Thomas, Parliamentarian.

Daryl reported that Aaron Kraut, Chief of Staff for Councilmember Dawn Luedtke, had attended the SSCA Executive Committee meeting on December 2, along with a representative of

the County Department of Transportation, and two representatives of Friends House, to discuss issues relating to the section of Norwood Road where a fatal traffic accident occurred a couple of months ago. She noted that there had been a history of accidents there, and that, at the meeting, the County representatives were skeptical of many of the traffic safety solutions that had been suggested: rumble strips are too noisy, speed bumps are not permitted on arterial roads under County policy; there is not enough funding to add speed cameras (which are in scarce supply), and speed bumps are frowned on because they cause extreme discomfort to ambulance patients. Kristen noted that the County is conducting a speed and volume study on the section of Norwood Road where the accident occurred to inform possible solutions. It was noted that additional signs had been placed warning traffic to slow down as they approach the crosswalk in front of the entrance to Friends House, but they were deemed ineffective. There was a great deal of discussion about possible use of speed tables, but it was agreed that conclusions or recommendations about what traffic safety measures will await the results of the traffic study.

Announcements: SSCA meetings in January, February, and March 2025 will be virtual only; SSCA is looking for someone to work on redesigning the SSCA website; the "Cocoa and Crafts" festival will be held at Ross Boddy on December 14; the Lions Club is selling Christmas Trees on the hospital grounds.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be on January 13, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Farquhar, Recording and Correspondence Secretary

Approved: January __, 2025