

**Kemp Mill Civic Association Q3 Meeting Minutes 2023sep14**  
**Meeting held 9/14/23 at Kemp Mill Elementary School**

President Jules Szanton called the Q3 KMCA Meeting to order at 7:36 and thanked Ben Yehuda Owner, Josh Katz, for supplying pizza.

**Election to fill KMCA Board Vacancy** Per the circulated Agenda, the President introduced the need to fill a vacant Board position. He noted the Board had selected Alan Felsen as an Interim Board Member and noted Felsen's willingness to serve the balance of the term (until 2024). The President twice asked for other nominations. There were none. Alan Felsen was nominated and seconded. A vote was held and Alan Felsen was elected.

**Public Safety Update** David M. Smith, Commander, Department of Police for the Wheaton District (District 4 phone: 240/773-5500 and email [4DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:4DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov)) provided a brief bio of 21 years as MCPD officer starting at age 20. While rising through the ranks Commander Smith has moved around the county including Bethesda and Silver Spring and served in many roles. Among many data points he noted Theft from Auto are up from 22 to 31 during comparable periods of 2022 and 2023. Commander Smith strongly urged owners to remove ALL valuables and lock the vehicle. The Commander responded questions and audience observations including fear of armed juveniles, truancy, shoplifting, understaffing, juvenile law, and firearms. Recruitment is an important concern as the Wheaton District full staff level is 175 and the current staffing is 112. Commander Smith, when asked by President Szanton "what can we do to support MCPD", again urged members to be vigilant and report suspicious behavior. He lauded Councilmembers Fani-Gonzalez and Luedtke and noted the Drone Pilot Program is a powerful tool and cited the California case where a drone allowed for de-escalation. Loud applause came after Commander Smith ended by noting public service offers a rewarding career. (More information is to be provided on the Listserv)

**Proposal from Landscaping Committee Chair** Pete Lublin noted the Kemp Mill Urban Park was established in 1967 and renewed in 2018 with the expenditure of \$5 million. For two years there was good efforts to maintain the park. However, the park has suffered inattention on multiple fronts and excuses include budget and personnel. Pete Lublin proposed more trash receptacles including in the interior of the park, pumps that work properly to circulate the pond water, plant maintenance, lighting for safety, picnic benches and improved seating, and replacing the mat with wood fiber base

**KMCA Official Position for Kemp Mill Urban Park** President Szanton focused the conversation in order to bring a specific agenda of needed improvements to a vote establishing the official position of the KMCA. Eight items similar to Pete Lublin's work were enumerated:

- 1 More Trash Receptacles including in the playground
- 2 Repaired and Maintained Pumps to Circulate the Pond Waters
- 3 Fresh plantings and proper maintenance
- 4 New Lighting for Safety
- 5 New Benches and Seating with Seating Facing the Slide and more Shade Covering over the existing benches
- 6 Replace failing mat with Wood Fiber Base
- 7 Barriers for the Entire Perimeter
- 8 Repaired Water Fountain

After discussion of whether to prioritize some items, the entire list was voted and the 17 Ayes prevailed.

**Committee Updates** President Szanton noted Maria Lopez, KMCA Board member, is the contact for the sidewalk project and Gil Chlewicki, KMCA Board member, is working on the University Blvd Bus Pilot.

**Proposal from President** Noting the litter problem and the potential of obtaining a Clean Water Montgomery Grant, President Szanton pitched volunteer cleanup days. A half-dozen people expressed interest in joining a park cleanup that we coordinate with Montgomery County.

**Announcements/New Business** 1) Dawn Felsen, Chair of the Membership Committee, is recruiting a person to Chair the Community Day Committee. There are four willing workers but a chair is needed. 2) Jonathan Aghion has materials on Ticks on the table as people exit. 3) Jonathan Aghion clarified ownership of the right of way between is Kersey and Auth is Montgomery County. 4) Pete Lublin noted the Friendship Picnic on Sunday, September 9/24 will offer Kosher and non Kosher food at Wheaton Regional Park. 5) Duckpin bowling is coming to White Oak beginning 9/30.

**Adjournment** The KMCA Q3 Meeting adjourned at 9:07

**(Addendum: Omitted Financials** As per Ania Waller, Treasurer, KMCA has \$6,441.68 in our checking account, \$3,158.96 in CDs, and 127 members in good standing)