

Kemp Mill Civic Association Q4 Meeting Minutes 2023dec19
Meeting held 12/19/23 at Kemp Mill Elementary School KMES 7:30-9pm

Call to Order: President Jules Szanton called the Q4 KMCA Meeting to order at 7:35 and urged everyone to “Eat up” and thanked Ben Yehuda owner, Josh Katz, for supplying seven pizzas.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Anna Waller reported KMCA has 120 members and a balance of \$6,358.49 in checking and a total of \$3355.46 in two CDs,

Guest Speaker: Szanton introduced District 6 Councilmember Natali Fani-Gonzalez, noting that in her first term she is already a committee chair. CM Fani-Gonzalez has a 6th grader at Odessa Shannon Middle School who had attended KMES. CM Fani-Gonzalez (Councilmember.Fani-Gonzalez@montgomerycountymd.gov) spoke about:

- 1) Project to connect a Poolesville farmer with students in down-county schools including a Memorandum of Understanding with Montgomery County Public Schools to involve students in growing food in order to show kids where food comes from.
- 2) Community Clean up involving Odessa Shannon and high school students
- 3) Her rebuke of the CASA misguided press release on the Israeli-Hamas war requesting an apology that was made by CASA. The Jewish Community Relations Council will conduct 3 trainings on anti-semitism and hate language
- 4) Montgomery County Police Department needs more officers to fill current vacancies with hiring bonus (up to \$20k) and work with hiring firm specializing in public safety recruitment. The well attended meeting, organized by CM Fani-Gonzalez, on the use of a drone by MCPD held at the Wheaton Rec Center that explained the purpose and limited role of the drone 9 month pilot program
- 5) Her experience on the Planning Board (“land use is my passion”) and a ZTA (Zoning Text Amendment) and passage by a vote of 7-4 of her first bill, a rent stabilization measure that caps rent increase at 6 percent. The ZTA is to allow short term lodging (limit to 4 days) in cabins at wineries in the AG Reserve as are allowed in neighboring jurisdictions (Public Hearing scheduled for 1/16/24)
- 6) Eager to assist KMCA obtain improvements to Kemp Mill Urban Park including the inclusion of her office when sending email to the Parks Department

Amid her remarks and afterward, the CM took questions from the audience about

- 1) Police Overtime pay and scheduling’s impact on Houses of Worship
- 2) 8 Specific issues with Kemp Mill Urban Park including Park Dept. leadership, non response to email, rental rates and minimums for park indoor facilities
- 3) Parking minimum near public transit stations. A public hearing is set for 1/16/24 on the legislation introduced by current Council President Friedson and CM Glass (Our CM is most likely to vote to approve)

The final matter brought up by CM Fani-Gonzalez was the future of the Glenmont Shopping Center. A potential developer is in discussion with the 13 owners. More information will be available in the new year with the possibility of a mixed use development on the site.

Community Update: Jeff Lunsford, a KMES alum, spoke about plans for the 5th Annual “Kemp Mill (C)hills 5k/10k conducted by the Montgomery County Road Runners (<https://mcrrc.org/>). The event is set for Sunday, February 11. As in past years, runners will gather, start and finish at KMES with event marshals “minimizing disruption” across the entire course. Kemp Mill (C)hills 5K/10K is a scenic tour through the rolling hills of Kemp Mill. Once the race starts, runners may choose to turn around early and complete the 5K race, or continue on for the extra challenge (and hills!) of the 10K race. Lunsford also reminded the audience of the weekly runs conducted on Thursdays at 6am starting from the parking lot of the Kemp Mill Shopping Center. The Chill Entry Fee is modest for all runners and volunteers for a variety of tasks are welcome to sign up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/MD/SilverSpring/MCRRCKempMillChills>

KMCA 2024 Budget: At 8:22pm Anna Waller presented (and circulated) the Board approved 2024 KMCA Budget for members consideration and approval. Waller noted increases for Beautification, Membership, Community Day, and Meeting Expenses. Pete Lublin (KMCA Board) with limited help has maintained the Lambertson median, the main gateway to our neighborhood. The proposed Budget would allow for a contractor to assist Lublin. An increase for Membership (Dawn Felsen, Chair) would allow additional targeted recruitment. Community Day increase would allow for even more crowd (and kid friendly) pleasing draws (perhaps a Moon Bounce). Rental fees explain the increase for Meeting Expenses as KMCA meetings are again in person.

President Szanton asked for a show of hands to approve the Budget. At 8:28 the Budget was approved.

Committee Updates

Sidewalk Committee: Maria Lopez (KMCA Board) reported on the new procedure for requesting sidewalks. Under the new guidelines anyone can request a new or needed repair of sidewalks. MoCo DOT starts an evaluation. Linking schools and Houses of Worship is an evaluation criterion. This was the case when there was a recommendation to connect Kemp Mill Synagogue with Kemp Mill Elementary School. The KMCA vote to approve the sidewalk plan on Hermleigh Rd, Stonington Pl and Lovejoy St was an important reason the county’s limited sidewalk budget was tapped to improve our community. Considerable discussion occurred. Contact Ms Lopez for updates.

Clean up Committee: After a very successful and multi generation clean up of the Kemp Mill Urban Park (conducted and photographed in early November) Melanie Goodrich led a discussion of formally joining the Adopt a Road program for Arcola Avenue from Kemp Mill Road to University Blvd. As part of Keep Montgomery Beautiful, the Adopt a Road program requires 6 sweeps per year for any Adopted Road. Chris Farrell has asked the MoCo DOT to transfer the segment from the Kemp Mill Swim Club to the Kemp Mill Civic Association. Volunteers are needed to be part of what President Szanton called a show of KMCA’s Added Value.”

Transportation Committee: Gil Chlewicki (KMCA Board) led a spirited discussion of the planned University Blvd Corridor Bus Pilot. He noted the right turn lane from Arcola onto University will remain available to drivers in stark contrast to the earlier SHA Bike Pilot. Good weather (temperature and humidity) will allow the painting to proceed. While there is no specific plan for enforcement, Alan Felsen noted “enforcement might come if there are flagrant violations.” Asked if there are plans to narrow the lanes on University, Chlewicki said “Not as part of the UBC Bus Pilot” however there are plans for BRT along University.

New Business: A heartfelt request was made from the audience for people to park their cars in their driveways if possible. It was noted that “too many park in the street.”

At 9pm there was a motion to adjourn.