**Minutes of Parkwood Residents Association Meeting, October 16, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Kira Lueders, president. Thirty-three persons were present. Participants introduced themselves, sharing what street they lived on and years of residence in Parkwood. Some had resided in the community for a few months and others for 40—50 years.

A reading of the minutes, available on the PRA website and in the Fall Newsletter, was dispensed with. Gerald Sharp, treasurer, reported that membership in the PRA is currently 330, a record high, amounting to $6497 in income, about equally divided between dues and donations.

**Program: Keeping our Homes and Neighborhood Safe**

Kira introduced the evening’s speaker, Officer Dana Stroman, Community Services Officer for the Second District Station. Officer Stroman explained that the 2nd district, while having the lowest crime rate in Montgomery County is quite large, extending N/S from Montrose/Randolph to the DC line and E/W from the Potomac River to 16th St., Silver Spring. Ten to 12 police officers are responsible for this district.

Officer Stroman reported that most residential burglaries occur during the day. She said that crime generally increases after Halloween through the 2nd week of January due to longer nights, colder weather (bulky clothing makes persons harder to recognize) and the holidays. The most prevalent crime in the area is theft from vehicles—usually from unlocked vehicles. “Stop theft from vehicles” stickers were made available.

Officer Stroman gave advice for keeping homes safe. Your house number should be visible from the street and lit at night (so police can find it if called). Each entry door should have a deadbolt lock. Sliding glass doors that have not been secured by a security bar are an inviting entry point for thieves. Limit visibility into your home, e.g., by means of drapes, so passersby do not get a view of your floor plan and valuables. Eliminate shrubs that provide concealment for intruders. Get to know your neighbors.

Burglars generally do not want to enter an occupied house. If you are going to be out, make your home look occupied—lights at night, a car parked in front, etc.

Dogs are an effective deterrent, including little dogs that make a lot of noise. You can even purchase a device that sounds like barking dogs.

Motion detector lights help too, although frequent activation by wildlife may be irritating.

Doorbells with video cameras are available and effective. The police are getting more video footage, which is helpful in solving neighborhood crimes.

An alarm system can be a deterrent to burglars, but be careful to avoid false alarms. Because the police always respond in pairs, a false alarm ties up two police officers. After three false alarms, the homeowner will be charged $50 and the amount goes up with subsequent false alarms.

Burglars generally want to be in and out of a home in 15 minutes, often faster than the time it takes for police to contact the homeowner and follow up after receiving an alarm. Burglars will often break a small window, reach in to unlock a door or window, look (especially in master bedroom) for jewelry, small electronics and other valuables, and be out of the home quickly.

Other tips:

If someone comes to your door, do not open it unless you are expecting someone.

Do not have packages delivered to your front door. They can be picked up by thieves.

Don’t provide information to solicitors or persons who claim to provide services. If the police come to your door, they will be in uniform with a police car. If in doubt, you can call 911 and ask.

Leave outdoor lights on at night.

If you see something suspicious, immediately call the non-emergency number 301-279-8000. Do not wait until the next day. You can remain anonymous if you wish. You can also text the police; Text MCPD and your crime tip; send to 240-773-TIPS.

The police will conduct a home security visit by appointment. It takes about an hour.

Remember:

Call 911 to report emergency situations to police, fire/rescue.

Call the non-emergency number (301-279-8000) to report a suspicious person, vehicle, or situation.

Call 3-1-1 to receive non-emergency Montgomery County information.

**Traffic Update**

Jeffrey Griffith, PRA vice president and newsletter editor, provided an update on traffic concerns. The Fall 2017 PRA Newsletter provides more detailed information.

Removal of Side Islands on Cedar Lane

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has agreed to our request to remove the side islands on Cedar Lane at the intersections of Glenridge, Franklin and Dresden. Because MCDOT determined that some traffic calming was needed, they proposed installing center islands on Cedar Lane at Franklin.

This compromise was proposed to the PRA membership and was passed. The road work should coincide with the repaving of Cedar Lane.

Cedar Lane/Rockville Pike

At the request of the PRA and other civic groups, the MD State Highway Administration has agreed to change the red arrow on southbound 355 so that cars can turn left onto Cedar Lane when traffic permits.

Summit Avenue Extension

MCDOT held a second public information meeting regarding the proposed extension of Summit Avenue with the goal of providing an alternative route for southwest-northeast travel University Blvd. to/from Connecticut Ave. with the goal of reducing congestion. PRA members and other community representatives attending the meeting expressed concern that the change would lead to more traffic on Cedar Lane. This project is still in Phase I; it has not yet been approved for funding.

Parkwood Drive to Knowles Concern

Wendy Bazil raised an additional traffic-related concern: the difficulty of exiting the Parkwood neighborhood by attempting to turn left onto Knowles Ave. during rush hour. Others who share this concern are invited to contact Wendy at [wp.bazil@verizon.net](mailto:wp.bazil@verizon.net).

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith Dighe, secretary