**Minutes of Parkwood Residents Association Meeting, June 5, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Kira Lueders, President. Thirty-five persons were present. Participants introduced themselves.

**Landscaping with Native Plants, Presentation by Pat Newman**

Kira launched the evening’s topic by sharing her love for “messy gardening” to provide a happy place for nature and lots of critters. She then introduced Pat Newman, a certified landscaper and resident of Parkwood.

Pat, who said that she is “passionate about pruning and beautiful functional landscapes,” spoke about how gardening exclusively with native plants has evolved toward combining both native and carefully chosen, environmentally-friendly non-native plants in gardens. She showed slides of many lovely gardens using this technique.

She also detailed reasons for using native plants. The prevalence of deer in our suburban neighborhood has effected some changes. “Deer will eat anything,” Pat stated. There was a realization following the Earth Day celebrations in the 70s to move away from large lawns and give space back to nature, for example by planting milkweed for Monarch butterflies and Spice Bush for Swallowtail butterflies. Pat also highlighted oak leaf hydrangeas and native trees such as the tulip, sassafras, and redbud trees.

Landscaping principles include:

* the right plant in the right place
* unified, not piecemeal plantings, with some repetition
* variety of shapes, sizes, and textures, as well as leaf and flower colors
* massing--lots of the same plants together
* layering—graduated sizes, bigger plants in back
* Four-season interest—flowers, leaves, bark, and berries (not just 2 weeks of azaleas)
* Sequential interest—something standing out at any particular time.

When thinking about landscaping, be creative; add statuary, rocks, or “whimsy.”

Adding some non-native plants to the mix will give a sturdier composition. They do not have the same co-evolved relationship as the native plants, but carefully chosen non-invasive plants can change the eco-system in a positive way.

Pat showed a number of slides of landscaped terrains with native and non-native mixes. Sedum is often used in combination with other plants. She recommends a visit to the National Arboretum where they have developed incredible plants, suited to the environment and pest and disease resistant.

The National Wildlife Federation requires the following for a certified wildlife habitat: water source, nesting boxes, food source for various types of creatures, cover for wildlife to hide or raise young, sustainable natural planting and maintenance practices.

Booklets “Landscaping with Native Plants” by the Maryland Native Plant Society were distributed.

**Updates**

Stump Removal. Jeff Griffith reported that the county will remove stumps of trees in the county right-of-way near roads…but it may take four years. Notify Jeff if you know the location of a stump to be removed. Jeff will give a list of stumps and their locations to the county office.

Traffic Management Recommendations. Kira reported that we are still waiting for a response re: the traffic recommendations, voted on by the PRA. She reported these by letter to county or state officials, as appropriate. She said that “we will not give up until we get an answer, yes or no.”

Beautification Committee. Gail Dalferes provided updates re: Parkwood gardens and beautification. Maintenance work has been ongoing throughout the spring. The committee maintains community gardens at the Parkwood entrance at Saul and Cedar (this is divided into three gardens), the 2 gardens at Wildwood and Saul (on either side of Saul Rd.), and entrances to our community: Franklyn and Beach and Cedar Lane and Parkwood, as well as Parkwood Terrace. The Beautification Committee, with PRA dues and donations, also provides paid maintenance in spring and fall and pays for mowing in areas where the county is not responsible. Residents can call 311 to report an area in need of mowing or for tree branch pick-up in county areas. Two new doggie bag dispensers have been installed near entrances to the park.

If anyone has unneeded “Johnson Bucks,” send them to Gail. Also call her if interested in helping with the community gardens.

**Discussion: Proposed Summit Avenue Extension**

Gail reported that an extension of Summit Avenue from Plyers Mill Rd. to merge with University and Connecticut Avenues has been proposed as a part of the community sector plan. The concern is that this extension will channel more traffic onto Cedar Lane. A meeting to address this issue will be held June 13, 7:00-9:00 p.m., at the Kensington Town Hall.

**Discussion: “Little Library”**

Liz Brennan reminded participants of our discussion of “Little Libraries” at the February PRA meeting. No vote was taken at that time. Little Libraries are small “house like” structures attached to a post, inviting persons to leave a book for others, or take a book that someone has left. Liz proposed that the PRA allocate up to $500 for the “house” and installation, and that it be installed in the Wildwood/Saul garden near the bench. This was approved.

**Question re: “Nextdoor Parkwood.”**

Two attendees asked for information regarding “Nextdoor Parkwood.” PRA board members clarified that this is not the PRA list-serve which is with Yahoo groups

**Minutes** from the February PRA Meeting were approved, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Dighe, PRA Secretary