



## VILLAGE OF MARTIN'S ADDITIONS

7013 Brookville Road (Second Floor, Suite B)  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-3263  
Phone (301) 656-4112  
www.martinsadditions.org

### Council Meeting Minutes – February 9 2023

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL AND IN-PERSON

**Council Members Present:** Andrew Kauders; Susan Fattig; Arthur Alexander; Katie Howard; Jeff Blander

**Residents and other Attendees:** Village Manager: Michael Silliman; Building Administrator: Doug Lohmeyer; Village Attorney: Ron Bolt; Auditor: Eva Webb; off duty Montgomery County Police Officers Mike Pratt and Nick Picerno; Keith Allen (Turner Ln.); Marty Langelan (Chestnut St.); Lorie Mitchell (Cummings Ln.); Susan Kahn (Bradley Ln.); George McAleese (Melville Pl.); Peter Kahn (Bradley Ln.); Joel Kliksberg (Quincy St.); Lynn Welle (Oxford St.); David Saulter (Brookville Rd.)

**7:30 PM Call to Order: Kauders.** Kauders noted that Jeff Blander would join the meeting late.

Weather: Keith Allen said his previous prediction a cold wet winter was true across the Country but not the case in this area. We're looking at Spring like weather the next few weeks.

**7:31 PM Approve Previous Meeting Minutes: Kauders.** Arthur motioned and Susan seconded. Passed Unanimously.

#### **Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments.**

Susan Kahn supported a separate ethics listening session and said she thinks the Council should be the first stop for ethics complaints. She loves the election plan but raised the issue of timing for ballot curing. She also hopes the comments on the annual survey are made available.

Marty Langelan thanked Arthur for the Audit and Katie for improvements to the newsletter. She expressed desire to see the comments from the annual survey and expressed support for a public listening session of the ethics ordinance.

Lorie Mitchell confirmed there have been zero ethics complaints since the new ethics ordinance.

Peter Kahn added his voice supporting a hearing on the ethics ordinance. Thinks this should be a wide-ranging conversation about the ethics ordinance overall.

7:53 PM Jeff Blander joined the meeting.

**A visit from the off-duty Montgomery County Police Officers that work**



## VILLAGE OF MARTIN'S ADDITIONS

7013 Brookville Road (Second Floor, Suite B)  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-3263  
Phone (301) 656-4112  
www.martinsadditions.org

### **for the Village 10 hours a week: Mike Pratt and Nick Picerno**

Nick reported crime has been low. Since starting in the Village, he said there have only been a few issues, including several cars being stolen. He did say we experienced some first amendment right protests a few years ago, but those have died down. Mike said crime is very low in the VMA.

Katie Howard asked about the safety of students walking home in the area and reports of students being followed. Nick said to document anything that looks out of place and call 911.

Nick also said they are always armed. They have an obligation to act if they witness something. The use of force is regulated by their use of force policy. Mike clarified that they have full police power.

Lorie Mitchell asked if they provide ticketing services for the Village. The police officers said yes, they can ticket under the county code. Nick said he doesn't do this much in his day job or in the Village. They do get involved if there's an abandoned car.

Jeff Blander said traffic control is concerning. Then asked about the purple line coming and if that will change things.

**8:25 PM Review Audit: Eva Webb.** Michael Silliman noted that the governance letter and the full audit report can be found in the back of the packet for this meeting. Eva Webb delivered her report.

**Building Administrator's Report: Lohmeyer.** Doug Lohmeyer delivered his report.

### **Discuss proposal and process to widen the end of Quincy St: Silliman**

Michael Silliman presented the problem, the different solutions that were considered, and provided a recommendation to widen the south side of the dead end of Quincy St only where those two parking spaces are. Moving those two parking spaces up against the sidewalk will create about three additional feet for emergency vehicles to pass. This will require a public bidding process. Michael requested direction to proceed with writing an RFP. The Council approved by consensus.

### **8:55 - Committee Updates: Kauders**

Keith Allen noted that planning for the March 5<sup>th</sup> Community event at La Ferme is ongoing. He then expressed the Community Engagement Committee's recommendation to the Council to help the communities efforts to make needed updates to the privately run community listserv. Many thanks to Jean Sperling for her work on the listserv updates and to Bill Lebovich for running the listserv to date.



## VILLAGE OF MARTIN'S ADDITIONS

7013 Brookville Road (Second Floor, Suite B)  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-3263  
Phone (301) 656-4112  
www.martinsadditions.org

Lorie Mitchell reported no comments have been received to date about the amendment introduced at the last meeting. Today the committee is recommending the introduction of an amendment to remove the notarization requirement. Lastly, Lorie noted the Ethics Committee will hold fewer meetings going forward as their remaining work can be done administratively and this is consistent with the practices of other ethics bodies.

George McAleese reported the election committee had a very productive meeting and that they are updating the communication plan, process for voter roll verification, and instructions to the election service provider. First thing that is happening is nomination period opens on February 20. George responded to comments about the ballot curing timeline. The plan is very specific; ballot curing and counting happens on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **8:31 PM Discussion and possible introduction of resolution (No. 2023-1) to amend policy regarding the taking of oaths and disclosure of conflicts of interest to remove the requirement for a notary to administer the oath.**

Susan made the motion. Arthur seconded. The resolution was introduced with four yeas and one abstention by Jeff.

### **Consider motion to host community listening session on the Introduced Ordinance 2022-10-1. Ordinance to Amend the Ethics Ordinance to Expand the Definition of "Official" to Include Members of All Committees and Ad Hoc Committees Appointed by the Council: Blander**

Jeff made a presentation calling for a forum concluding with making a motion to hold such a public forum before the March 2022 Council Meeting.

Susan commented that to date there have only been four objections to this ethics amendment in question, all of which were made at public hearings. She contested the statement that the ethics ordinance is a deterrent to volunteering, and instead suggested that bullying of volunteers by a handful of residents has been responsible for a reluctance of some volunteers to seek reappointment, although we have had more volunteers since the ordinance was enacted. Susan also expressed that she would have an issue with the timing of the proposed forum, which seems patently political.

Arthur noted that this forum and the issues raised do not have anything to do with this amendment at hand.

Andrew noted this is a small amendment expanding the ethics ordinance to committees. And further expressed concerns about the timing and scheduling of a forum.



## **VILLAGE OF MARTIN'S ADDITIONS**

7013 Brookville Road (Second Floor, Suite B)  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-3263  
Phone (301) 656-4112  
www.martinsadditions.org

Jeff made his motion. Katie seconded. Andrew voted for it. Susan and Arthur voted no. This passes and we will schedule a date.

### **9:56 PM Review 2022 Annual Survey Results: Alexander**

Arthur noted the new survey tool was used and that about half the number of households in the Village submitted a response. Jeff Blander made a presentation on his analysis of the data. Michael Silliman asked the Council for take aways and actionable items for the Village office to follow up on.

### **Treasurer's Report: Alexander**

Arthur gave his reported and noted one edit to the posted report.

### **Manager's Report: Silliman**

Michael gave his report and noted one additional item that was not on his written report. The Maryland state legislator introduced House Bill No. 269 which would require the Village to amend our Charter to disallow voting by non-resident property owners. Michael recommended the VMA amend the Charter presumptively. By consensus the Council agreed and directed the Village Attorney to draft the Charter amendment.

### **Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments**

Marty Langelan asked for the comments of the survey. Village Attorney said you do not need to submit a formal written request. Verbal request is fine, and we will process it.

Susan Kahn also asked for a copy of the survey comments.

### **Adjournment: Kauders**

Katie motioned and Arthur seconded.