

## TCA Minutes - June 29, 2018 7:00pm

Present:            President:        Marissa Valeri  
                         Vice President: Mike Glynn  
                         Treasurer:        Lou Kallas  
                         Secretary:        Pat Kallas  
                         Member at Large, North: James Hedrick  
                         Member at Large, South: Mike Stein

Marissa opened the monthly community meeting by emphasizing that we are Twinbrook 'Community' Association vs Twinbrook Citizens Association because we represent all members of the area; want to be sure that those members of the community who are not necessarily US citizens are a part of the community.

Discussed ways in which TCA reaches / will reach out to the community: Twinbrook Next Door, facebook, twitter (which is closely monitored by the press & elected officials); development of our website – TwinbrokCommunity.org. The website is a good link to particular issues & TCA welcomes feedback in all these channels of communication.

Marissa also mentioned that TCA is reaching out to all the other local associations so we can discuss 'partnering' on events etc. Marissa also briefly mentioned that TCA is looking at upgrading so that dues can be paid on line.

Lou Kallas gave the Treasurer's report which he indicated would be posted on the website. The checking account is fully reconciled & TCA can now access it on-line. All tax reports have been filed. Dues received to date have all been deposited. New TCA policy is that there will be no petty cash & no donations to charities.

As for the budget: major expense of \$810 is for the liability policy. TCA is looking into alternatives etc., so there will be no formal budget til that gets resolved.

Lou also emphasized that transparency is their major concern so that members will know where funds are being spent.

A brief discussion ensued with Doug Hernan asking what the charitable donations were. Holding a membership drive at the Twinbrook Pool; especially on Thursdays which is raft night. Look into having block parties (at one time there were 5 locations where these were held).

Marissa introduced our guests for the evening. Starting with ...

**Hjarman Cordero**, Senior Neighborhood Resources Coordinator, who discussed National Night Out in August & that a list of locations is available from the police department website. Mayor sent a letter to the Dept of Transportation opposing widening of 270. The July 4 starts at 7pm with fireworks at 9pm. Hjarman invited TCA to come to the various work sessions.

TCA Notes -June 29, 2018 cont'd

Marissa advised that these & other activities / events are being put on the TCA google calendar.

Hjarmin advised that work on the Edmonston Drive bridge will begin on July 16 & continue for about 8 months. Discussion ensued about what was being done; that the bridge will not be closed but access will be reduced at times to a single lane; doubtful that there will be a pike path as this is a bridge rehab, not a replacement. Since the bridge goes over Metro, work cannot be done while trains are passing (& that's why it's taking so long. It was asked if a 24/7 webcam could be installed to show current construction so that the community could plan their route etc. Hjarmin replied doubtful but he would ask.

**Major Michael W. England** /Mike who advised that he is the TCA liaison. Discussed how they had addressed concerns (especially about drinking) brought up at the February 2018 meeting regarding the bike path. Of the 42 citations issued to 23 individuals, only 9 lived within the Rockville city limits. Of those 23, 2 were issued 39% of the citations.

Mike noted that citations are on file for 3 years. Mike then introduced ...

**Victor V. Brito** who was sworn in on June 18 by Mayor Newton as our new Chief of Police. Vic talked about his being a Montgomery County native; raised in Kensington. Mike is an adjunct profession at American University. Vic emphasized that he sees his role as a collaborative process which leads to community resilience. Discussion ensued as to what Vic saw as challenges. Vic responded that building relationship in a growing city; need to address issues so that they do not exacerbate. That they provide customer service; that it's more than 'just the facts', it's about listening & doing.

Vic complimented City Manager, Robert DiSpirito, and the Rockville staff as being credentialed; talented individuals.

**Tom Howley**, Code Enforcement Supervisor gave an overview of his department. For their purposes, the city is divided into 6 areas with 2 inspectors per area. That their job is to inform & educate which sometimes means leaving 'door knob' reminders/notices at peoples homes. Tom asked that when we see something, that we say something.

Questions by attendees included snow removal / sidewalk clearance. They work with the Senior Center which provides a list of individuals who need volunteers to clear their walks. Tom noted that if Code Enforcement does the snow removal, it costs the homeowner \$\$\$\$. Issues brought up also included plows pushing snow from the roads onto previously cleared sidewalks; especially around the 1600 block of Viers Mill Road.

Catch 22 when there was a mega windstorm & the tree / building damage that ensued but which also created a backlog in that the City could not remove the debris but homeowners were getting issued citations. Tom acknowledged those issues & that they would be better coordinating with other departments.

Questions about code/enforcement with # of people in a house. Also discussed were trash piles in backyards; rat control; invasive plants/bamboo; dogs barking in the early am; tree trimming; the change in the regulations for whole-house sprinkler systems which is now more in line with Montgomery County code.

Marissa thanked everyone for their presentations.

**New Business** included comments by James Hedrick that updating of the by-laws was in process & he hoped to have something for the community at large by August / September 2018.

Membership options – don't have to be a member to attend meetings etc.

Doug Hernan asked if there was an Outreach Committee that would consider a mission / vision statement that could be discussed at a townhall-type meeting.

James Hedrick brought up 'SpotLight Twinbrook' that would highlight various community & business groups.

Also discussed were safety issues near Maple; the Rockville City Academy.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm with a reminder that the next meeting would be on July 31.

Patricia Kallas  
Secretary

## TCA Notes – May 29, 2018 7:00pm

Present: President, Christina Y. Ginsberg

VP, Mike Glynn

Sec, Mary Anne Barnes

Treasurer, none

Webmaster, Eric Gregrich

Mike Glynn & Christina Ginsburg took voter registrations and secured annual dues from those in the community who were just joining or who had not yet submitted their annual dues.

Summary:       \$ 24 in petty cash from Christina Ginsberg  
                  \$ 60 cash paid in dues  
                  \$ 348 personal checks paid in dues  
                  \$ 432 Total given to Treasurer, Lou Kallas

Christina also gave Lou the membership applications. Mike Glynn retained the ballot book.

Christina spoke briefly about her term as President and stated that she was not seeking another term.

Names for all positions were submitted from the floor with each individual giving brief remarks about themselves. All were voted unanimously into office ...

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Vice President: Mike Glynn  
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Secretary:     Pat Kallas  
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It was noted that the position of Webmaster is that of a chair, not a Board member, so was not included in the ballot, etc.

TCA Notes – May 29, 2018 (continued)

Marissa's opening statements included the fact that she walks the neighborhood as she does not have a drivers' license. Wants everyone to feel free to stop her to chat about TCA etc.

Marissa opened the floor to attendees asking that they share what's important to them; bring up issues that affect them. Responses were ...

Allison Moser   Carl Sandberg school is moving to Maryvale site. What is taking its place once it moves to Maryvale {which is about 1.5 -2 yrs away}. No response from MCPS about her questions regarding their long-range plans. Also concerned about the use of Twinbrook Parkway as a cut-through street.

Margo Frampton        When is the closure of the bridge on Edmonston Drive to take place as it's supposed to be 'partially' closed due to improvements that will be made to Route 355. She is concerned about young people (her daughters) walking to Richard Montgomery and the safety issues that will cause due to condensed/increased traffic on the bridge & access roads.

Jonathan Goldsmith        Public safety issues; especially where traffic speed affects pedestrian safety.

Mike Glynn        Highly recommended continuous contact/meeting with police over the path. Invited TCA members to reach out to the PTAs / Twinbrook ES and the Twinbrook Pool. Thought it might be a good idea to have a liaison between TCA & various groups.

Marissa Valeri        Invited attendees to come again next month; she will forward the agenda within the week. All were reminded that the meeting has been changed from June 26 to June 28 due to conflict with the elections.

Sara Pascual        Discussed the poll results which had 66 responses which included Events with schools; build-out/zoning; traffic/crime; home resources/grants; & other. She will share those results with the group.

Ed Mattos        Reminded that he is the police liaison and brought up Neighborhood Watch; street lighting; speeding; drinking. Ed emphasized the need to reach out to Hispanics, Asians, et all in order to ensure a unified community.

Ann \_\_\_\_\_        Briefly discussed Twinbrook Village (Neighbors Helping Neighbors) and that she has flyers for any who wanted them. Marissa input that TCA needs to reflect variety in our community and the need to advocate for all.

TCA Notes – May 29, 2018 (continued)

Susan \_\_\_\_\_        Briefly mentioned the Pedestrian bridge at Twinbrook Quarter & that it's the developers decision but need to be present at the next city council meeting. Lou Kallas input that there are 2 types of city council meetings: ones where individuals can speak vs ones where individuals can only listen. Sonia \_\_\_\_\_, Henry Road, indicated that she has a contact with the developer, Kwasami (?), who wants to meet with TCA etc.

Kathleen Conway        Reminded group that she works at City Hall / is our contact with them. She indicated that the agenda is on the city website & the "future" agenda goes through August 2018. Kathleen got okay from the group to share TCA info/concerns with the City Council.

Marissa Valeri said that she will provide a map of the Twinbrook community to help pinpoint /focus discussions.

Brigit B\_\_\_\_\_ Stated that she has living in Twinbrook for 50 years & was on the planning commission for 7 years; emphasized the importance of being friendly. She also would like TCA to include fun things to do. Marissa agreed on the importance of outreach via Twinbrook Next Door, Facebook, etc. Margo Frampton asked about youth participation & SSL. Christina Ginsberg responded that youth cannot get SSL due to structure of TCA.

Sara Pascual Brought up possible use of magnets that had listing of future meetings/agendas paid for by a sponsor. Lou Kallas asked if there was any objection to securing a sponsor but there was none. Christina Ginsberg recommended that she reach out to the Board of Education.

David Saidman Would like to volunteer for the Environmental Committee.

Sara Pascual Recommended that TCA set up an annual / yearly schedule of events and get it out to the community. Felt that magnets would be good for those who are not tech-savvy.

Marissa Valeri Went over safety issues: path, park, etc. Felt that the response from the police department was not sufficient. Wants to discuss with them their resources, police presence. She will encourage all to attend the 7/11 meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm

Patricia J. Kallas  
Secretary

## SUMMARY for June meeting

Election of Officers -This is a great group that you have elected into office. I'm so impressed with their enthusiasm, their knowledge, their ability to grasp various issues/concerns and then address them. Emphasis is on inclusion.

Points of Concern, interest etc brought up by attendees. These included:

Safety issues for pedestrians walking the neighborhood/ the pathway; what affect construction on Edmonston Drive Bridge would have on both peds & traffic; cut-through traffic, etc.

Also brought up were Twinbrook Village / Neighbors Helping Neighbors; establishing relationships with other/similar groups, schools, recreation centers.

Participants brought up the need for activities that would bring Twinbrook residents together in a fun/casual way. This could include partnering with the above-mentioned groups.

Suggestions from residents are welcomed.