

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 5/14/19

President Julie Szymaszek welcomed 22 neighbors to the meeting.

1. Minutes from the March General Meeting were approved.

2. Treasurer Debbie Darr reported gross profits from this year amounted to \$6,703.95. That includes advertising income of \$1,000.00, Fall Fest profit of \$1,105.89, and membership dues totaling \$4,328.06. Expenses were \$6,116.53, including special events, newsletter printing, and special projects.

Net income totalled \$587.42. Total assets, liabilities, and equity totalled \$19,446. The treasurer's report was approved.

3. Officers for the coming year were announced: President Marcia Hettinger, Vice-president Allen Hicks, Secretary Debbie Darr, Treasurer Michael DeLuca, Membership Matt Cinimo, Nominations Karen Darden, Public facilities Ernie Shea, Special Events Rita Nabhan, Hospitality Amanda Mendat, and Communications Chrissy Gerbi.

4. State senator Chris West reported the legislature killed Governor Hogan's request for a 2.2 billion bond for county schools. Senator West said the county badly needs new high schools to replace Dulaney, Towson, and Lansdowne highs. He was the lone vote against the so called "Kirwan bill" to improve

Maryland education, because it does not include enough money for Baltimore County schools. The Kirwan plan did pass.

Senator West said he'll try again next year to get more money for county schools.

5. Guest speaker Rob Jenkins, of Blue Water Baltimore and Herring Run Nursery, talked about using native plants to protect and improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. He said native plants are crucial in controlling stormwater runoff and supporting wildlife. He especially recommends oak trees. He said plants like phlox subulata are a good substitute for lawns, which do nothing for the environment. He said Herring Run nursery can provide information on planting and growing natives.

6. Guest speaker Richard Shanahan, of the Lutherville Garden Club, talked about how the club planted and maintains the gardens at College Manor retirement home. Club members used only native plants, no pesticides, cleaned up the stream, and installed bee and bat houses. They're using plants to attract baltimore checkerspot butterflies, and baltimore orioles. He urged neighbors to do the same, with white turtle head plants and milkweed.

7. Ernie Shea talked about the "greening of Lutherville". A group of neighbors is identifying dead trees (more than 70) and spearheading efforts to plant new trees.

8. State legislators talked about the recent legislative session. Delegate Dana Stein, vice-chair of the environment and energy committee, said the a ban on styroform for food-related purposes, was passed. Other bills passed which aimed to protect oysters, conserve energy, and tighten restrictions on using antibiotics on farm animals.

Shelly Hettleman reported on the Kirwan commission's focus on expanding pre-k, giving teachers more support and higher pay, helping struggling learners, and making sure there's skill training for people who don't go to college. She said there's also a focus on medical problems, like high-priced drugs.

Delegate Michelle Guyton reported on two successful bills passed by the General Assembly: One to help children with reading difficulties, and one requiring more study before instituting high school graduation tests.

9. Rita Nabhan asked representatives about trash near the Lutherville light rail station. They said they would help getting it cleaned up.

Respectfully submitted,
H. Mc Gee
Secretary