

Town of Riverdale park  
Monday, May 5, 2006  
Regular Legislative Meeting Minutes

**Attendance**

Vernon S. Archer	Mayor	
CM Rob Oppenheim	Ward 1	
CM Mary Donaldson	Ward 2	
CM Novella Sargusingh	Ward 3	
CM Lawrence Taylor	Ward 4	
CM Gerard Kiernan	Ward 5	
CM Kenneth Webb	Ward 6	Absent

Town Administrator- Patrick J Prangley  
Chief of Police- E. Thomas Parker  
Director Public Works- Jim Houser

The Legislative Meeting for the Town of Riverdale Park began at 8:00p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of reflection directed by Mayor Archer.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Archer: We need to delete approval of March 6<sup>th</sup> minutes

Motion made to Approve Agenda with the above-proposed changes

CM Kiernan Riversdale Mansion is sponsoring a 5K run the deputy curator is here to make presentation

Mayor- Add that to the top of Agenda

5423 Powhattan requesting a variance however no representation is here- this will be added to the bottom of the Agenda items.

CM Kiernan Motion

CM Taylor Second

Approved

**Mayor's Report**

Good things to report, I submitted to the council my proposed Budget for FY07, copies available in Lobby. Is the finance committee ready for a budget meeting? 4.5 cent tax reduction, that means your taxes will remain the same because property taxes are going up. Livability Grant, we put in to share a street sweeper with Hyattsville, we put in for two and we received one, this cooperation with our neighbors is a good thing. So much trash washes into the rivers by keeping our streets clean this will help keep our rivers clean. The CBDG grant for 48<sup>th</sup> street, the pothole that keeps coming back- despite attempts to get several bidders, we received 2 bids. MUTC meeting Wednesday at 7:30, we plan to see some revised plans. At the last MUTC meeting Potomac Development plans did not comply, Potomac Development stated the guidelines are too dense and that not enough parking is available. We have looked at some successful development areas and one thing that is very apparent is that the municipality has provided parking for areas with dense development. Having looked at our area, Bealle Circle would be a piece of property that could provide some parking, the Town attorney is looking into this option, we do not have a firm report back as of yet. I would also like to tie this in with the Eakin Young and Taub, we are trying to come up with a park or green space that would benefit Hyattsville and Riverdale Park, Bealle Circle is not the best-suited area for a park with its

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proximity to 410. I would like to see us turn Bealle Circle into parking and look for more suitable area for a park.

*This concludes the Mayors report.*

**Town Treasurer's/ Town Administrator's Report/ Code Enforcement Report**

Mr. Prangley, the Town Administrator stated good news State Highway to improve grade crossing improvements with CSX. State and Federal government will financially support this project. Also receive an appeal with a May 10<sup>th</sup> response date, Staff is prepared to work with Council on the Budget process, CBDG will be discussed as well as the Deputy Administrator position is down to 3 final candidates. The Code report will reflect answers to some of the questions that were brought up at last meeting.

Patrick Prangley gave treasures report; copies of the report are available

CM Donaldson made motion to approve Treasurers report subject to audit.

Motion made to approve the Treasures report, subject to audit,

CM Donaldson                      Made Motion

CM Sargusingh                      Second

***Approved                              subject to audit***

**Police Department Report**

Chief Parker stated past Friday attended the graduation for Lt. Patrick Timmons, who completed the class for Police Staff and Command, Chief present Lt. Timmons with a Letter of Command Recognition.

Chief Parker stated this is a demanding course. Chief Parker gave his statistical report for the month stating that they are continuing traffic enforcement.

*This concludes the police Department Report*

**Public Works Report**

Mr. Houser, Director of Public Works, gave the statistics for the month

Big news for Department is our Spring Clean-up Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> no tires

CM Kiernan- how do we stand on hiring a Gardner, on the street sweeper what are we looking at how many days do we have the sweeper

Houser- I will be coordinating with Mr. Henry from Hyattsville

CM Kiernan- Do we get it three days a week

Houser- We are probably looking at August or September we do not have a schedule as of yet

Mayor stated at MML we could see what other Municipalities are doing.

*This concludes the Public Works Department Report*

**Fire Department Report**

Representative from the Fire Department gave the Fire Department Report inaudible.

There was a fire at 4709 Tuckerman Street \$ 20,000.00 worth of damage was done.

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**Ward and Committee Reports**

**Ward 1, CM Oppenheim, Community Affairs**

Greetings Riverdale Park, once again I want to invite all to the Ward 1 party will be May 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm at the S&J Restaurant. Hope all come out, I encourage all to visit our local Farmers market. One problem we have had is tires being dumped, if you see a truckload of tires call the Police, I am working with the Rite-Aid in reference to the dumpster. The Town wide yard sale is May 29<sup>th</sup> Monday. Just before Clean-up day. Under New Business, I will be bringing up Mr. Blades and his request for a parking spot. Also

*This concludes Ward 1, CM Oppenheim's Report*

**Ward 2, CM Donaldson**

CM Donaldson stated that as the Mayor said we received the copies of the 07 preliminary budget. We have to set a public hearing I am suggesting May 25<sup>th</sup> and we can set the constant Yield rate.

CM Kiernan asked when work sheets would be ready

Mayor stated they would be ready in a week

CM Kiernan stated that last year we had marathon meeting and he would like to avoid that

Mayor- Reports will be ready by May 15<sup>th</sup>

Meeting May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30-Changed

Patrick Prangley stated that the meeting has to be advertised.

This will be a public hearing meeting

Meeting May 22<sup>nd</sup> Monday night at 7:30 pm

A resident is interested in a permit for the Field of Dreams- Can I be updated on status

Mayor- come to Town Office and request a permit

This is for Tee Ball for Mondays, Wednesday, and Thursday

Mayor- Everyone would need to get a permit

CM Kiernan- Do we have signs up

Houser- They are being made

Trash is being put out on Saturdays and that is not fair to put trash out to sit out all week, please try to keep it on your property Code Enforcement has sent out 19 letters addressing this. Pat who is cutting 410- Prangley stated that State Highway is cutting this. CM Donaldson asked about the status of improvements on 410.

Prangley stated once Kenilworth Avenue is finished State is moving to 410.

March 15 for 43<sup>rd</sup> and Somerset, they came out and marked 43<sup>rd</sup> but nothing has been done, Hyattsville is beginning work on 43<sup>rd</sup>.

*This concludes Ward 2, CM Donaldson's Report*

**Ward 3, CM Sargusingh, Public Works**

Good evening, everyone I still have the pothole on Nicholson Street that needs to be filled in and one on Taylor and Riverdale Road. Also deteriorating sidewalks on Taylor Road. I want to encourage residents to lock-up your things. I have been the victim of stolen bikes ad lawnmowers please exercise precaution.

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*This concludes Ward 3, CM Sargusingh's Report*

Mayor stated that we are waiting for the engineers report for the budget.

**Ward 4, CM Taylor, Economic Development**

CM Taylor wants to acknowledge the work of the MUTC committee give thanks to everyone on that committee. In addition, code enforcement has been receiving compliments from residents in Ward 4, Ms. Ferguson in particular for the fine job she is doing. Madison Hill's tot line is getting a reputation for a party spot however, the police show up and have been closing the party early, stating that all is quiet now thanks to the police.

*This concludes Ward 4 Taylor's Report*

**Ward 5, CM Kiernan, Public Safety**

CM Kiernan I would like stated that the police showed professionalism at an incident that occurred with gunshots the police handled this situation excellent. In reference to my seat on the finance committee is that the number of people that correspond on Town-Talk they are talking about businesses and when I look at the towns business licenses, I do not see these business listed. Economic Development- when public works corresponds with State Highway tell them if they can't get there- we will cut certain areas- they are disgusting grass is so high – we should make it look nice.

*This concludes Ward5, CM Kiernan's report*

**Ward 6, CM Webb**

*This concludes Ward 6, CM Webb's report*

**Correspondence Summary**

*No requests*

**Public Comment**

Danielle Glarros  
Sheridan Street

A few people are here from the Preservation Committee, there is a meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. We have put together a proposal to place signs in the area where the historic districts are in the town. I will be responsible to see how many signs we are going to need. Stay tuned for the locations. Commend you on the presentation on the budget. Field of Dreams has been empty lately and I am excited to hear that safety and security issue with the bathrooms as a resident I want to make sure there are guidelines set up for the bathroom use. There are numerous areas in Town where you do not have sidewalks on both sides; walking to the park, this does not make you feel very safe. We do not have sidewalks everywhere and this is somewhat of a concern.

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CM Oppenheim asked if residents were assessed for the sidewalks  
CM Kiernan stated yes years ago  
Patrick Prangle stated that some were funded  
Mayor stated we would have the Town Engineer look at this

**Legislative Action**

# 1     5 K Run – Ann Watts, a representative for the Riversdale Mansion gave history a presentation for the 5 K Run- The Riversdale Classic- Town Cooperation, start and end at Riversdale Mansion. May 20<sup>th</sup> would like the Town to be a sponsor. Requesting the Police assistance at Taylor and Riverdale Road. Will keep in contact with the Police Chief.

CM Kiernan             made motion  
CM Sargusingh        second  
Approved

#2     Approval of minutes for the march 6<sup>th</sup> meeting

CM Kiernan             made motion  
CM Taylor             second  
          Changes in Mayors report 27-28 Acres  
Approved

#3     Approval of minutes for the April 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative meeting

CM Donaldson         made motion  
CM Taylor             second  
          Changes on page 5 bottom strike out  
Approved

# 4     Approval of 6ft privacy fence 5007 Riverdale Road

CM Donaldson         made motion  
CM Sargusingh        second  
          Tabled

Resident present. Stating that the request for fence to run to the front of the house because of water meter being outside and exposed. His house is next door to an apartment complex and has had items stolen. White Vinyl privacy fence. Mayor reiterated CM Kiernan's concerns running fence to the front of the house and asked resident if he would consider moving location of fence

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Back. Resident stated he is concerned about doing this due to the location of the electric and water meters. CM Kiernan suggested building an enclosure around meters with a padlock, as we really do not want to see a six-foot high fence in front. Encouraging resident to move fence back. CM Donaldson suggested taking handle off water access. CM Taylor asked if there was a shut-off valve. Mayor stated that we would like to work with you, yet stay within our design standards. CM Sargusingh stating that children are kicking fences down to get to their balls. The neighbors agree and are going to pay half of expenses. CM Oppenheim read code-stating exceptions. Mayor stated he would like a picture of the proposed fence.

CM Kiernan made motion to table  
CM Donaldson second

# Ingraham paper street Waiver/ Variance for Road to remain gravel  
Mayor gave background and G&C quote of \$ 22,000.00. Developers gave background 5004 Ingraham Street. Mayor stated Ingraham is a paper street with some limited gravel improvement. Town policy is when streets are done they are done to county standard, developers would like a waiver as this is the only build able lot on the street. Developers have a quote for \$ 10,000.00. Developers want to use the existing gravel as the street. Discussion on leaving the roadway as gravel and paving the driveway. Mayor asked for staff input- Police Department has no problem- waiting for Fire Departments written report. CM Kiernan asked about the legality of a gravel street. Developer spoke with County and was told that this particular street standard would be left up to the Town of Riverdale Park. CM Kiernan expressed concern about providing services and the precedence this would set for the 11 lots across the street. CM Oppenheim thought it was fine, CM Sargusingh stated the drainage ditch was a concern but not really the street or driveway. CM Kiernan is concerned with the legality and future problems

CM Sargusingh made motion CM Kiernan motion to table  
CM Oppenheim second CM Donaldson second  
Tabled

# CBDG PY 31 Approval of Engineering Bid  
Mayor gave background stating that we have made 2 attempts to receive bids and should move Forward. 48<sup>th</sup>

CM Oppenheim Made motion  
CM Taylor second  
Approved

# 5423 Powhattan Variance/ Zoning Board Hearing  
2<sup>nd</sup> story addition requesting a variance for lot coverage, hearing date of Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>  
CM Taylor gave background information.

CM Taylor made motion to support application for variance  
CM Kiernan second  
Approved

**Unfinished Business**

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*CM Oppenheim*- permission to close Rhode Island Avenue 3pm -7pm

CM Oppenheim        made motion  
CM Taylor            second  
Approved

**Old Business**

**New Business**

#1     Remove the 2 hour parking signs on Cleveland Ave.

CM Oppenheim        made motion  
CM Kiernan            Second  
Approved

#2     Requesting to Close Sheridan Street on June 24<sup>th</sup> 4-8pm for block party

CM Donaldson        made motion  
CM Oppenheim        Second  
Approved

#3     Handicap Parking Space in front of 6103 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Blades Residence  
CM Oppenheim gave background for 1 spot in front of home. Amended 1 permitted  
handicap spot in front of 6103 43<sup>rd</sup> street

CM Oppenheim        made motion  
CM Kiernan            second  
Approved

**Adjournment**

CM Donaldson:        Motion Made  
CM Taylor:            Second  
Approved

Typed from video tape 05-01-06  
*Colleen M. Ferguson*