Sandy Spring Civic Association

Ross Body Community Center, Sandy Spring, MD 20860

(Meeting Virtually by Zoom during Covid-19 Pandemic)

May 19, 2022 (by Zoom, for 24th meeting in a row)

**Attendance**:

Board Members – Dr. Daryl Thorne, President; Basile “Whit” Whitaker, Vice President; Christine Hill Wilson, Treasurer; Douglas Farquhar, Recording and Correspondence Secretary

General body – approximately 10

Guests: Gilberto Zelaya, Public Information Officer for the Montgomery County Board of Elections; Judy Hruz, Greater Olney Community News

Attendance Total (approximate): 17

**Meeting called to order**: 6:34 p.m. by Daryl

Paula Glendenning introduced Dr. Zelaya, who gave a presentation on how volunteers could encourage and register people to vote, including some information about voting participation by Montgomery County residents. Overall, he encouraged us to encourage our neighbors to vote in the upcoming primaries for Maryland and Montgomery County offices, quoting the old maxim that “all politics is local.”

He talked about the options available to vote, including in person, by mail, or early in-person voting. Election day has been rescheduled to July 19. He noted that individuals can register to vote now if they will be 18 years old by the time of the general election in November 2022, and all registered voters, even those who are minors at the time of the primary, can vote in the primary. He noted that primaries in Maryland are closed party primaries, so one can only vote in the primary of a party in which he or she is a member. In response to recent widely publicized criticism by some politicians about mail-in ballots, he noted that people in the U.S. have been voting by mail since the Civil War.

He spoke with pride about a program called “Future Vote,” which enlists youngsters in serving at polling places and in registering new voters. It was agreed that SSCA would work at community events, including Juneteenth, Heritage Days, and the Sandy Spring Museum Strawberry Festival to encourage people to register, and to vote. After some questions, we thanked Dr. Zelaya for his presentation, and for his virtual attendance at our meeting.

Marie Slater delivered a report on traffic, saying that there are still drainage problems at the intersection of Brooke Road and Route 108, but that the interim fix to the paving has improved conditions. No money has been allocated yet to fund construction of a more permanent resolution of the drainage and pothole issues. She noted that portions of Brooke Road and Chandlee Mill Road have speed limits of 35 mph. There was general agreement that the speed limit should be lowered, since these are the only two locations anyone could identify where small roads pass through residential areas and the speed limit is that high.

The minutes of the March and April SSCA meetings were approved. Christine Hill Wilson delivered the Treasurer’s Report (attached) which was accepted by vote of the members.

The Ashton Village Center Implementation Advisory Committee has convened, and includes three SSCA members, Kathleen Wheeler, Nadine Mort, and Amy Medd. They were asked to report periodically to the SSCA on any developments, and they agreed to do so.

Comments and feedback on the SSCA/Ashton Alliance Candidate Forums was solicited, and was generally positive.

We talked about when we can resume meeting in person. The consensus was that we should aim to do so at our September meeting, but with flexibility to continue meeting virtually if COVID resurges.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Douglas Farquhar,

 Recording and Correspondence Secretary

Approved: