

Fountain Hills Community Association, Inc.
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2006

The Board of Directors of Fountain Hills Community Association, Inc. met at the UpCounty Regional Services Center, Germantown, Maryland on August 3, 2006 at 7:35 p.m.

Present: _____ **Absent:** _____

Mr. Tom McDowell, President
Mr. Bill Renner, Vice President
Ms. Siu Poon, Treasurer
Mr. Frank Walsh, Secretary
Ms. Sue Adamkiewicz, Director
Ms. Jen Brill, Director
Ms. Robin Kastenmayer, Director

Absent:

Others Present:

Others Present:
Mr. William Whitney, Vanguard Management
Ms. Rani Pellet, Recording Secretary
Commander Evie Cahalen
Officer George Boyce

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Tom McDowell, President of Fountain Hills Community Association, called the regular meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. with a quorum present. Residents introduced themselves to the Board.

II. COMMUNITY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Commander Evie Cahalen (w) 301-840-2369. (Cell) 240-876-1184). – 5th District Commander introduced herself to the residents who were present. She has been with the police department for over 25 years, and has been a district commander for 2 years. Her current job allows her to get to know the community. She informed those present that the substation in Montgomery County covers 237 square miles. At any given time there are about 8-10 officers on duty in this area. Evelyn.cahalen@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Also present was Officer George Boyce – 5th District Community Services Officer (w) 301-840-2650.
george.boyce@montgomerycounty.md.gov

Commander Cahalen and Officer Boyce both encouraged residents to contact County Executive, Mr. Doug Duncan and inform him that Germantown needs more police officers in the district.

Commander Cahalen informed the community of her goals for the Germantown area. She hopes to help community members become active in their communities. The goal is to have the real issues that the community cares about addressed in their community. She said the majority of issues plaguing communities are quality of life issues such as poor lighting, kids loitering on the corner, or trash in the community. The police need to know about these 'quality of life' issues.

Commander Cahalen's second focus is the reporting of violent crimes in the community. She said that stats show that nationwide only about 25% of violent crimes are reported annually to the police. That means that about 75% of those violent crimes are not reported. About 49% of property crimes are unreported. The police need to know when these kinds of crimes take place. These statistics can be used to help propel people to become involved in community watch programs. Community watch programs keep track of the day-to-day issues that occur, and to notice and detect things that are different or unusual in the communities. Sgt. Cahalen explained that the neighborhood watch program has changed. it is an actual

48 training program that involves a several hour commitment for residents to be trained in the community
49 watch program. This is a proactive program, it is not a reactive program.

50 Officer Boyce showed the community several training program discs and brochures. He gave some
51 guidelines about the program. It cannot be done without teamwork. The program requires an open
52 relationship with the police department. The system involves creation of telephone trees, and close contact
53 with neighbors. Law enforcement serves as support and resource for neighborhood watch. A portion of the
54 training will explain how to better secure individuals homes. Members will be responsible for recruiting
55 members, staying informed, and reporting to police, (non-emergency number – 301-279-8000).

56 Training will include, in home target hardening safety for homes, log keeping, training (12 hours), the
57 commitment, each group gets a tool kit, money through homeland security, and other funding sources in the
58 community as well.

59 Action: Mr. Renner will scan the basic information about the Neighborhood watch program
60 and distribute it to the Board.

61 Action: Block captain module – several key people need to be identified. Mentors need to be
62 identified from these.

63 The police officers described the local problem areas near Fox Chapel. There is a huge amount of juvenile
64 crime with guns and knives in that area. Fox Chapel area has a problem with auto theft.

65 It was noted that some areas around Fountain Hills have also been tagged. The gang MS-13, and another
66 different one consistently tag the entire Fountain Hills perimeter. Officer Derrick Davis is the gang expert
67 in Germantown district. At this time there is not a huge amount of crime by gang members. Most that is
68 occurring is taking place on other gang members. Tags need to be called in to the police department. Once
69 the police can take photographs, tags need to be removed as soon as possible.

70 Action: Arrange for Officer Derrick Davis to talk about the gangs in Germantown. If the tag is on private
71 property, the landowner is responsible for its removal. If you see it, report it. If it belongs to county
72 property, the County will remove the graffiti.

73 The two residents who live on Harmony Woods and who had their home broken into about 9 months ago,
74 spoke to the officers present. These residents said that the thieves came into the back window or back door.
75 The residents noted that there is an access road behind their house. There is a gate on Clopper but it is not
76 locked. This is an access point that is lined with trees. The community also has a park that sits off the
77 access road. If someone drives along this area it is easy to see how people can come and go into the
78 community without being seen. The residents asked if the police could set up a barrier there. It is on Old
79 Mateny Road. It is an old DPW right of way. Sgt. Cahalen said she will go out there tomorrow.

80 There being no additional information at this time, the police officers thanked Fountain Hills residents for
81 their time, and left at 8:27 p.m.

82 III. HOMEOWNER'S FORUM

83 A resident who lives at Harmony Woods Lane has had two broken windows in the last two months. He had
84 spoken to Mr. Whitney regarding this. He also wanted to know if it would be possible to ban solicitations
85 in the neighborhood. He has people dropping off advertisements every each week.

86 Action: The Board will consider installing a no solicitation sign.

87 Mr. Holtzman had the following complaints.

88 • He alleged that a guard was bringing non-resident guests to the pool.
89 • He alleged that this guard was bringing in guests who play very loud music in the parking
90 lots.

91 • Mr. Holtzman said it is disappointing that the condo parking lot is used as a hang out
92 area.
93 • He also does not want pool guards sit outside the front of the pool and smoke cigarettes.
94 Mr. And Mrs. Edwards wanted to discuss the rural road that runs behind their house on Harmony Woods
95 Lane. They said that it is a road with some historical significance, but they are concerned about the safety
96 issues related to its proximity to their house.
97 Mr. Muse, a law enforcement officer said he can go back to the path between South Fountain's and the
98 Condos and then catch youngsters there. He will then go directly to the youngster's houses to address this
99 issue with the parents.

100 A resident who lives at 18733 Harmony Woods said she had two windows broken. The first time they
101 replaced the window. In March someone threw another rock into her house and broke the window. There
102 is another house in front of her house, and there is no barrier between her house and the neighbor's house.
103 She also said that there is a path very close to her house, and she wants to know if there is something that
104 the community can do for her to shield her house somehow. The Board said it would look at her house, and
105 the surrounding trees and see if there is a place either for a barrier or for a tree.

106 A community member named Joy wanted to thank the Board for bringing the police into the community.
107 Mr. German Garay said that there was a car stolen over by Porterfield Way last week. He wanted the
108 community to know.

109 **IV. MANAGEMENT REPORT**

110 **A. The Board Minutes**

111 Motion: To table the minutes until the next month's meeting. Poon/Brill. Vote: Unanimous.

112 **B. Pool**

113 The Board discussed an issue that took place on Tuesday, August 1, 2006. Community
114 Pool representatives were present at the meeting to discuss the issue. The Board is under
115 the impression that there was an incident that took place on July 17, 2006. The first
116 incident was logged on 7-17-06 which Lauren signed off on. The Hinton family that had
117 been previously banned from the pool had used profane language. There was also another
118 issue that took place between two families, but the police showed up and the situation was
119 diffused. The parties then left of their own volition. They had been asked to leave at least
120 three times before the police were called. Two days ago, Mr. Muse was there. The Hinton
121 family came in. The second group of people came in to the pool and both parties were
122 using foul language. Mr. Muse said that the life guards were doing a very good job. The
123 guards did as well as they could under the circumstances.

124 Community Pool recommended that it might be beneficial to revoke the guest passes from
125 the Hinton and Mariette families.

126 Motion: To revoke the guest passes for the Hinton and Mariette families for the remainder of
127 the pool season. Brill/McDowell. 6:1:0. Mr. Walsh opposed the motion.

128 Motion: To revoke the Hinton's family passes until they appear before the Board.
129 Walsh/Renner. 5:2:0. Ms. Poon and Mr. McDowell opposed the motion.

130 Action: A letter indicating the Board's motion and intent will be faxed to the Community Pool
131 in the morning so that the guards have authority to not allow people to enter the pool.

132 The Board meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m. to go into Executive Session.

133

133 The Board meeting reopened at 9:32 p.m. with a quorum present.

134 **C. Parking Policy**

135 The Board had discussed the parking policy and decided it was ready for approval. The
136 residents had been given the chance to come out and voice their concerns about the issue.
137 One resident came to the meeting and there were no other comments in person or by e-mail.
138 Only one resident phoned.

139 Motion: To approve the amended parking policy for Lake Geneva Way and Mediterranean
140 Drive. One tag will be issued per person. McDowell/Poon. Vote: Unanimous.

141 **D. Architectural Change Request**

142 Ms. Nancy Holmsfeld - 13434 Fountain Club (solar fan)

143 Motion: To decline the motion to install the solar fan. McDowell/Walsh. 6:1:0. Ms. Brill
144 opposed the motion.

145 Mr. Tom McDowell 18911 Porterfield Way (Storm Door)

146 Motion: To approve the installation of a storm door. Renner/Poon. Vote: 6:0:1. Mr.
147 McDowell abstained from the vote.

148 Mr. Kinson – 18810 Lake Placid Lane (generator install behind AC unit)

149 Motion: Table the acceptance of the generator until the Board receives more information.
150 McDowell/Poon. Vote: 7:0:0.

151 Action: Request that the resident come to answer Board's questions about the generator. The
152 board is concerned with the noise and the size of the generator, and its impact on the
153 community.

154 **V. ADJOURNMENT**

155 There being no additional business for the Board to address at this time, the Board meeting adjourned at
156 9:52 p.m. Renner/Poon. Vote: Unanimous.

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158

159 Respectfully submitted,

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161 Rani Pellet
162 Recording Secretary

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