

Roland Park Civic League Agenda June 4, 2009
Presbyterian Church, 4801 Roland Avenue, 7-9 PM

Present : Phil Spevak Louise Phipps Senft Chris McSherry
 Jesse Halvorsen Mike McQuestion Yovi Poblete
 Ian Macfarlane Peter Kannam
 Rita Walters Muriel Berkeley

Special Guests in attendance:

Pam Jackson, Baltimore City Department of Transportation
Traci McPhail, Baltimore City Department of Transportation, Ride Share
Mark Brown, Project Planner, Baltimore City Department Planning
Lisa Morris, Baltimore City Department of Planning, Planner for North Baltimore
Sarah Zalesky, Baltimore City Office of Sustainability
Mary Pat Clarke, Baltimore City Council
Tywanda Cooper-Miller, Councilperson's Sharon Green Middleton's Office

Time meeting started: 7:00 (approximate)

Chris McSherry led a discussion about transportation issues in Roland Park.

1. One issue discussed was the impact of cars dropping off students at the many schools in Roland Park. Traci McPhail introduced the National Center for Safe Routes to School and distributed flyers. Lisa Morris talked about the importance of getting folk out of their cars. Suggestions from the floor included the ideas that students can walk or bike to school, or carpool. Chris McSherry asked if there could be a shuttle throughout Roland Park just in the mornings to get students to schools, somewhat like the Hampden Shuttle. The idea of a private shuttle service was mentioned. Kirsten Day, President of the Friends of the Stony Run, suggested that the Stony Run trail provides a good route to many schools in Roland Park. It was suggested that we find a way to get students to lobby their parents to find more sustainable ways to get them to school.
2. Bus service throughout Roland Park was discussed. Some folk use the MTA regularly. Others do not. Ridership will determine the number of busses that can be run.
3. Chris McSherry said that Roland Park is eager for speed cameras.
4. There was a discussion about ways to calm traffic. Speed bumps can help where they are allowed. The bike trail on University Parkway has been very helpful in calming traffic (Rita Walters and Mary Pat Clarke). Mark Brown, City Project Planner, said that there is a form to fill out and send to Randall Scott, Chief of Traffic for the City, to request help in calming traffic where needed.
5. Lisa Morris, City Planner for North Baltimore, said that the City is recognizing employers who find ways to encourage their employees to use mass transit.

Follow up to Transportation Discussion

1. Chris McSherry will follow up with Joseph Madison from the MTA to explore the possibility of a shuttle to get students within Roland Park to their schools.
2. Rita Walters and Mike McQuestion will follow up on the idea of involving students at the public and private schools in Roland Park in sustainability issues.

3. Chris McSherry will follow up on Peter Kannam's idea of how one can appeal a decision against speed bumps where they are denied.
4. Sarah Zalesky of the City Office of Sustainability will follow up on recognizing schools that make contributions toward sustainability.
5. We will look into getting crossing guards at Roland Avenue and Cold Spring Lane.

Treasurer's Report

Jesse Halvorsen presented the financial statement for March 2009 (without a balance sheet comparison). Mike McQuestion moved that the statement be accepted and Rita Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Jesse Halvorsen presented the financial statement for April 2009 (without a balance sheet comparison). Ian Macfarlane moved that the statement be accepted and Rita Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Jesse Halvorsen presented the annual financial statement through the end of April without a balance sheet comparison. Louise Phipps Senft moved that the statement be accepted and Mike McQuestion seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Jesse Halvorsen said that the balance sheet comparisons will be available at the July meeting. Chris Belser and David Blumberg will be leading our membership drive.

Initiatives

Jesse Halvorsen reported on CHAP (Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation). There are tax benefits available for living in a community under CHAP and interesting partnerships are available. Since Roland Park was an early (the first?) planned garden community we might want to be under CHAP. To investigate if we want to do this requires a year long process including a broad community meeting with Tyler Gearhardt and eventually a community vote. The Civic League Board voted unanimously to continue to explore this option.

Adjournment

Mike McQuestion made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and Chris McSherry seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

1. Discussion of 2009-2010 initiatives (issues underlined will be discussed)

a. Ongoing

- i. Fire station
- ii. Baltimore Country Club
- iii. Zoning including Transform Baltimore
- iv. Transportation and Traffic
- v. Beautification and public works infrastructure (LPS/IM)
- vi. Unified database
- vii. Financial organization and oversight

b. New

- i. Education and Roland Park (MB/PK)
- ii. Membership drive (DB)
- iii. Master plan

iv. Sustainability and energy pilot (MM/RW)

v. CHAP and historical preservation (JH)

Other business:

Motion to adjourn:

2nd:

approved:

Time: