

Roland Park Civic League

Minutes October 1, 2009

In Attendance: Phil Spevak, Muriel Berkley, Ian MacFarlane, Louise Phipps-Senft, Jesse Halvorsen, Michael Braverman, Rita Walters, Chris McSherry, Bill Sharpe, Peter Kannam, Kate Culotta

Absent: David Blumberg, Ken Winkler, Mike McQuestion, Jennifer Cooper

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM by Phil Spevak.

Announced that Plat Representatives Yovi Poblete and Christine Belser have resigned due to pressing business and family obligations.

Minutes for September: Motion by Kate Culotta, second by Jesse Halverson. Minutes for September were approved as written. Will be posted on web site.

Finance Report by Jesse Halvorsen: Jesse summarized July, August & September reports. Finances are in good shape, Jesse considering changes to some formats to make them easier to understand. Currently the calendar is May 1 to April 30. There was very little activity in August but September the dues started to come in and deposits increased.

July approval: motion by Rita Walters, second by Ian MacFarlane, approved

August approval: motion by Kate Culotta, second by Bill Sharpe, approved

September approval: motion by Muriel Berkley, second by Rita Walters, approved

Updates on Old Business

Roland Park Place PUD: residents of Roland Park and Rolden have continued to meet and/or correspond with RPP concerning plans to amend the PUD to allow for additional parking. RP Civic/Land Use Committee continues to stay involved. Parties will be invited to November meeting.

Fire House: Kate Culotta will contact contractor who was awarded the project. Bill Sharpe will continue to speak with Kahil Zaied concerning wrapping up the needed paperwork to allow work on the city property. Bill is also working on paper work concerning the Bond Money that was awarded to the city for the RP Fire House second floor renovation.

Award Ceremony: October 10 at War Memorial Plaza, the RP Civic League (represented by Phil Spevak, Bill Sharpe and Martha Marani) will be presented with a civilian award for their work on the fire house renovation. Local resident Gino Mainello [7th grader] will also receive an award for his community service to raise funds for the fire house. In past years, Gino has raised money and public awareness for other RP community needs. Kate Culotta as also recognized in the award to Roland Park.

Roads & Maintenance: Ann Lundy announced that the city will continue with leaf vacuuming this fall. Details at a later date.

Sewers: Ian Mac Farlane will commit to organizing City's DPW to discuss sewer progress and issues at upcoming December meeting.

Gilman & Left Turn Lane: Chris McSherry was able to organize a meeting of the schools affected by traffic on Roland Avenue and concerns about Gilman's request for a new left-turn lane on Roland Avenue. *[Please see attached minutes as provided by Chris McSherry]*

New Business

Roland Park Area Master Plan: City is working on restructuring the zoning codes throughout the City. Roland Park first started working on a Master Plan in 1992, not completed and the process is being developed to allow completion of the plan. RP plan needs to dovetail with the Transform Baltimore Program. The proposed time line is focus groups in fall 2009, task force meeting January 1- June 21, 2010. Draft report ready by April 2010. Master Plan ready by June 2010. Proposed budget is being determined. The week of October 26, 2009 the public information process will begin, to reach city residents and to keep them involved and informed.

Additional information provided by the RP web-newsletter:

The Roland Park Civic League, Community Foundation and Roads & Maintenance organizations and the Baltimore City Department of Planning have agreed to partner in the development of an area master plan for Roland Park. All residents will receive a mailing during the week of November 9 detailing the process but, in the time until that letter arrives, there is important information of which all residents should be aware.

This process may be one of the most important efforts of this community during the next 25 years; the plan developed will likely influence the character of life in Roland Park. The scope of the plan will be determined by the residents, but one can anticipate that certain issues or problems will be considered: maintenance of the residential and historical quality of Roland Park, protection of green space with connection of open space to allow movement by walking or biking or public transportation, partnerships with schools to discuss difficult transportation problems, and the improvement of city infrastructure (sewers, roads/sidewalks). All stakeholders - including businesses, schools, and religious institutions, as well as our elected officials - will be involved. The process will involve the Department of Planning of Baltimore City and will be led by Michael Medick, a professional town planner living in Homeland and Seema Iyer, also a professional planner, who lives in Roland Park and who is the division chief for research and strategic planning in the city Planning Department.

The participation of the Roland Park community is critical. Please save these dates for community charrettes. Your attendance is very important.

. Saturday, November 21, 9:15 am. until noon (site to be announced).

. Friday, January 8, 7-9 pm. (site to be announced) & Saturday, January 9, 9am-3pm.

Greater Homeland Committee, Audrey Stevens: Audrey is a Vista/Americorp volunteer working

the the Tree Baltimore Program for the GHC. Goal is to double the tree canopy within the City in 50 years, which is 1 million trees. Several programs available to assist homeowners with getting new trees.

October 24, 2009 Poly & City College are competing in a tree planting campaign.

2 species of local trees will be available to residents for \$10. They are Red Bud & Red Oak.

Other species are available through the city and Audrey can help residents obtain them.

If you order 10 or more trees, city will drop them off or you pick them up.

Energy Challenge Program and activities for October 23, 24 & 25th.

Committee meeting following the Civic League meeting.

Friday 23th : Walk to school day. Peter Kannam working with local schools on participation and their individual green initiatives.

Saturday 24th: Teach-in Day in front of RP Library. Will be held rain or shine. Booths available for businesses and schools to show green products and art work.

The movie "Kilowatt Ours" will be shown inside the Library throughout the afternoon.

Sunday 25th: Sunday Streets. South bound Roland Ave from Northern Pkwy to Cold Spring Lane will be closed to motor traffic to allow pedestrian, bike, scooter and roller blade traffic.

701 W. University Pkwy: Concerns that realtor who bought property may be working outside the R-2 zoning allowance. R-2 allows accessory home office use only. No business signs, no employees, should resemble a residential home. The property is under covenant, the owner made changes to existing driveway and adding a parking lot. Also advertising his residence as his business address. Will be addressed by R&M board.

Motion to Adjourn by Louise Phipps-Senft, second by Bill Sharpe
Adjourned 8:45 PM