

Roland Park Civic League
Minutes of Board Meeting
January 4, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM with a quorum of Officers in attendance.

Present: Michael DiPietro, Philip Spevak, Annette Garofalo, Robert Moore, Chris McSherry, Ian Macfarlane, Jim Hanna, Michael Braverman

Absent: Louise Phipps Senft, Brian Kelly, Hugh Fitzpatrick, Craig Smith, Scott Conover, Sam Hopkins, David Blumberg,

NEW BUSINESS

Miss Shirley's Discussion

Michael DiPietro introduced the subject of traffic along Coldspring Lane near the restaurant area and as well, consideration of Mr. Edward Dopkins's application for a class B liquor license. The license is for the new Miss Shirleys. Michael explained that Mr. Dopkin currently has a hearing scheduled on January 25 and is requesting the ability to serve alcohol from 6am to 2pm.

Mr. Dopkin then addressed the Board and visitors attending the meeting. He stated that there would be no selling of package goods or inclusion of a bar. In response to questions concerning parking along streets in the surrounding neighborhood, he said that he had only received one call regarding parking on Hawthorne. He said that employees are now parking beyond Alonzo's and are told not to park on the side streets. Related to the liquor license he said that he is not requesting to have a bar and that the current hours of operation will remain the same.

Several neighbors made comments and asked questions. Suzanne Knoll noted increased traffic and parking on Hawthorne and noted the difficulty with visibility when turning onto Cold Spring from Hawthorne. Mr. Dopkin said he would be willing to help with this problem by placing a sign noting that the street was for resident parking and by continuing to inform his patrons of the parking available associated with the residents.

Rob Gardner said that he agreed with Suzanne's comments and asked Mr. Dopkin to become more actively involved in the traffic/parking issues.

John Barry noted that the new restaurant along Cold Spring is expected next week and that it will be important to assess the change in traffic afterwards.

Rob Soderblom said that while a vigorous business area is good for the neighborhood, the new business has caused the worsening of the traffic problems.

Louise Phipps Senft asked about using a shuttle for employees to use from off site parking outside of the neighborhood. Mr. Dopkins said he would consider. He said that 12 parking slots are used by his employees.

Jake Eldridge, President of the Evergreen Community Organization asked Mr. Dopkin to take the leadership in organizing a Cold Spring Lane Merchant's Organization. Mr. Eldridge said he had written to 20 merchants along the lane and none had replied. He said he has only heard from Mary Pat Clarke and from Stephanie Rawlings Blake.

Some residents and officers suggested that the CL delay voting on a position on the liquor license until after the parking issues had improved. Mr. Dopkin said he would be willing to ask for a postponement of his hearing.

Mr. Dopkin said that he felt that more parking could be added along Cold Spring.

Mary Pat Clarke said that she would support bringing together the merchants and coordinating involvement of the City traffic engineers.

Michael DiPietro suggested investigating whether parking were available in the synagogue lot further east.

Mr. Dopkin said he would investigate whether parking were available in the physician offices' lot on weekend.

Action Plan: 1. Committee formed to include Chris McSherry, Michael DiPietro and Mary Pat Clarke to follow-up on these issues and coordinate meeting with City Traffic Department and merchants. 2. Mr. Dopkin will place resident parking only sign on weekend on Hawthorne. 3. Mr. Dopkin will investigate idea of off site parking for employees (using shuttle to get to work site). 4. Mr. Dopkin will add something in bill to remind customers to park in parking lot and not on side streets. 5 Mr. Dopkin is to contact synagogue and physician office to see if additional lot parking is available. 7. CL will meet again in 2 months to review. 8. Mr. Dopkin will delay license hearing. 8. Chris McSherry will investigate potential to increase street parking along Cold Spring.

Roland Park Elementary

Jim Hanna prepared letter to Tom Stosur, Director of Planning to include all of Roland Park in Elementary School boundary. Motion approved to send.

OLD BUSINESS:

Roland Park Country School

Michael spoke with Nancy Mugele. School has installed timer on dining room lights to go off at 10 PM. Committed to planting on Deepdene side to shield structure from view. Michael proposed meeting with Nancy. New structure will actually be at height of theater. Michael will explore noise from ventilation and sewage.

Starbucks

Michael said there is a plan to keep 5-6 tables outside over the winter. Company will seek BMZA approval for outdoor seating. In discussion, question came up as whether BMZA has approved outside seating.

CVS

Michael spoke with manager and corporation is interested in property owner of property next door to expand parking or store.

Traffic

Overhill Road- Letter sent to City concerning recommendation for speed humps.

W University and Roland Speeding

Michael said there have been 67 speeding citations along Roland Avenue recently.

Water Tower

Brian Kelly said a meeting will occur on 1/18 at 7pm at the Presbyterian Church to gauge interest of community groups for the plan.

Stoney Run Restoration

Phil Spevak said that a 2/6 meeting is scheduled to review final plans.

Parking

Michael said that weekend ticketing is occurring for parking facing the wrong direction on street.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Treasurer report: Down \$1700 in dues but with advertising we have helped to make up.
Approved unanimously.

Minutes: approved unanimously with minor changes.

Michael asked about a speaker for the for annual meeting and suggested considering Mayor Dixon. Brian Smith suggested also considering a presentation of Preservation Maryland. Motion to invite Mayor Dixon approved with Philip Spevak voting against noting the timing so close to the election.

Roads and Maintenance

Ann Lundy said that Roads and Maintenance has postponed meeting until next week. The CL approved the slate of officers and member recommended by the nominations committee. In response to Ann's request for volunteers, Kate Culotta volunteered to be a plat 1 representative. Unanimously approved.

Adjourned 9:35pm.

