

Roland Park Civic League
2005 Annual Meeting
May 18, 2005

Called to order by David Blumberg at 7:37 P.M.

David introduced Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke who reported the following.

1. The Baltimore City Police have added 8 new offices to the Northern District and 10 new officers to the Northeastern District.
2. Water Tower. She is working with Brian Kelly and Councilwoman Stephanie Rawlings Blake to explore options for the preservation and renovation.
3. Rotunda Development. The center is now under contract with Hekemian Corporation, centered in New Jersey. Ms. Clarke believes a commitment was made to not have "big box stores". She believes that the Giant Grocery Stores will expand in size and will serve as the anchor that is intended to restore business shop rentals. Christopher Bell, Vice President of Hekemian, has indicated that he would like to have two representatives of each community organization in the area to provide input.
4. City Budget. A surplus of \$37 million is anticipated and this should result in a property tax reduction of two cents per year for five years. Ms. Clarke wishes to review taxes which are regressive including the alarm and telephone taxes.
5. Sign Law. Posting of signs on public property is illegal. A law is pending for discussion which would allow the total fine for violations of \$200 to be divided, 50% for the community and 50% for the City.
6. Planning Commission. They are reviewing the posting requirements for Commission hearings.
7. Community Gardens. Department of Public Works will turn on water for use at minimal rates.
8. Traffic Calming Measures. When $\geq 85\%$ of vehicles exceed the speed limit on a street, such measures are made available by the City.
9. Ms. Clarke acknowledged the contribution of David Blumberg to the community and made particular mention of his work on remodeling the RP Library Branch.

Secretary's Report by Phil Spevak. The minutes from the 2004 Annual Meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report by Michael DiPietro. Approved unanimously. Income is approximately \$70,000 and reserves are approximately \$78,000.

Roads and Maintenance. Devra Kitterman, Vice President, described some of organizations' efforts this past year including mowing along Falls Road, a path survey, and working with the City to assure that maintenance is attended to. Devra asked that residents be mindful of trees requiring watering. In response to questions, she said street sweeping is less frequent due to problems with equipment maintenance. Eileen Azner, Vice President for Restrictions explained that residents should present their proposals for

exterior changes and that these are reviewed the first Tuesday of each month except August.

Community Foundation. Jean Mellot said that \$60,000 was raised the past year and that \$5,000 went to the library fund and other money to fund a traffic study and to defer pruning costs by Roads and Maintenance. The path walk is May 21 between 11AM and 2 PM.

David Blumberg acknowledged Pat Eckenrod and thanked her for her work.

Library Renovation. Susan Newhouse reported on the course of the project. She said that the contractor must be experienced in historic renovations. The community is to raise \$2,045,000 and \$1,794,023 is in hand. Construction will hopefully begin October 15. She acknowledged the assistance from Council members Blake and Spector.

Newsletter. Anne Stuzin and Martha Marani acknowledged contributors and said that the year was very successful with many new advertisers.

Web Site. Phil Spevak explained the elements planned for the new web site and thanked all members of the committee. Residents should go ahead and register for RP e-communication by going to www.RolandPark.org

Water Tower. David explained that proposals are to be submitted to the City. We anticipate that the uses may include an office for meetings and the RP Office. \$1,000,000 is anticipated to be needed with 40% of the funds raised from donations. Brian Kelly is leading the effort and fund raising is planned for September, 2005.

David Blumberg reviewed the Civic League affairs and said the organization was financially sound and that the relationship between the three organizations is improved. He advised that we all remain involved and vigilant regarding the community. There are 1054 households in Roland Park.

Civic League Committee Reports

Zoning. Jerry Trout said that is had been a busy year with efforts to preserve infringement of commercial into residential area. He acknowledged Councilwoman Clarke for her assistance and acknowledged collaboration with Roads and Maintenance. Projects have related to Odyssey School, Greenspring Tower PUD, Keswick Nursing Home, and the Rotunda development.

Crime. David reported that crime is down 8%. He said he hoped that we will have a community police representative.

Traffic. A left turn lane was discussed for Roland Avenue near the schools but was not approved. Other traffic calming measures are being discussed for Roland Avenue.

Nomination Committee. Bob Hearn presented the report and the officers were approved unanimously.

Pool. Pat Eekinrod has information for those interested.

The Bill and Vivienne Wilson Award was awarded to David Blumberg by Tee Fleming, Devra Kitterman, and Susan Newhouse. David was praised for his hard work, ability to use humor, his fairness and inclusiveness, and his ability to build support.

Chris McSherry noted the Roland Park Elementary School Initiative to improve the school playgrounds. This will require \$150,000 and she encouraged the community to donate.

Michael Novak noted that there are plans to change the 61 bus line service and that the Wyndhurst Association is interested in the potential changes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 PM