

November 12, 2009

To community leaders adjacent to or near Roland Park,

I have attached a copy of a letter Roland Park residents will receive today concerning the development of an area master plan for Roland Park. The letter provides an explanation of the purpose, scope, timing and process.

We are writing to you as the leaders of the adjacent and/or surrounding communities. Your input is welcome, desired and important to the success of the plan.

The Civic League will partner with the Department of Planning in the development of this plan. We have an ambitious timeline and look forward to completing the plan by late June, 2010 and subsequently to bring the plan to the Planning Commission for discussion and approval.

Our initial community charrette is on Saturday morning, November 21, from 9:30 AM to noon at the Roland Park Elementary and Middle School on Roland Avenue and will include the broader community of Roland Park. We welcome your attendance and that of the residents of your communities. Please forward this invitation to your communities by whatever method you feel is appropriate (listserv or e-mail most likely). We know your good ideas and involvement are critical to the development of an effective plan.

This process will elicit input broadly. We are inviting all stakeholders including governmental, business, educational, religious and institutional leaders.

We anticipate that our plan will reflect important City initiatives such as the 2006 Comprehensive Master Plan, the 2008 Sustainability Initiative, and the current Transform Baltimore rezoning effort as well as the State open space initiatives.

One important question is what the type of involvement are we suggesting? We have not yet decided what geographic boundaries are appropriate in the plan but I anticipate this will be a mutual decision by Roland Park and the other communities. It would seem to make sense for some of the communities to be included such as those “essentially in” Roland Park though they may go by another name. Some of you have already spoken with me and I know your opinion as to whether you wish to be within the boundaries of the plan but if we have not spoken and you have interest to be included or want to ask questions to determine if you wish to join, please let me know and we can talk further. For those communities that do not wish to be within the boundaries of the plan, your input will still be useful as we wish to be mindful of your opinions and wishes. We would ask that each community identify one individual to be the “official” representative. Some organizational meetings will be community wide and some will be much smaller. For the later, a representative with whom we could work, would be useful.

I am very excited by the prospects of this effort and hope you will be able to join us at the first charrette.

My best wishes,

Philip Spevak  
President, Roland Park Civic League