



Residents Fight To Preserve Neighborhood



Reported by: [Delia Goncalves](#)

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As board members drove to a private meeting at the *Baltimore Country Club* Monday evening, they were greeted by protestors: Parents and their kids picketing a plan to build on open green space. Protestor Alison Barlow said, "It's threatened by a huge development that's incompatible with residential zoning in Roland Park."

The proposal calls for a 325 bed Assisted Living Facility on Country Club grounds, right by the old tennis courts. Neighbors don't want to keep the elderly out but said there are other locations like nearby Manor Care, that have vacancies. Michael McQuestion said, "It's not like we're unable to meet the demand of the aging population. And we know Baltimore has plenty of such areas that really could use some redevelopment."

At 30 acres the Country Club property, which stretches out to Falls Road, is one of the largest privately held green spaces in Baltimore City. If the plan goes through developers will only build on 17 acres leaving the rest as green space. Some neighbors think that's a pretty good deal. Tony Torlina wondered, "If this doesn't fly is the next scenario worse for the neighborhood with no park land?" BCC representatives met with neighbors last week saying they feel the plan is the best fit for the Club and the community saying, "Why would we go through the risk time and energy of getting a zoning change when we could sell it to an entity and get a price and a contract where we needed no community support or no zoning change?"

The Roland Park Civic League has officially opposed the plan. However, Club members are moving forward and have until July 14th to vote on the proposal.

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