

Roland Park E-letter

Web Editor's E-letter
March 16, 2009

1. Keswick/BCC Deal Off, Signs to Be Removed, Please.

As you no doubt know already, the deal between Keswick Multi-Care and the Baltimore Country Club for the development of 17.5 acres of the latter's land was terminated last Friday, the 13th. Both organizations fought a solid, determined battle for what they thought was best. However, I am convinced that, 50 years from now, we shall all alike look back and realize that the preservation of this unique community was to the benefit of all.

The RP Civic League is requesting that all BCC/Keswick-related lawn signs be taken down immediately, please. Decorum dictates it.

Volunteers are collecting signs placed on median strips, etc., but will probably not enter private property to remove signs. The Keswick-specific ones can probably be recycled, but you may want keep the generic "Keep the Park" signs. (Hint: the "Keep the Park" signs with no web site address at the bottom are the oldest signs, and will be most collectable as RP memorabilia in the future.)

2. Thank-you Letters.

Roland Parkers are nothing if not polite, so thank-yous are in order for the elected officials that assisted with this Herculean, nine-month effort.

The importance of the City Council's steadfast opposition to the BCC/Keswick development proposal cannot be overstated. Please write a thank-you note, at minimum to the following:

- Mayor Sheila Dixon: mayor@baltimorecity.gov
- First Deputy Mayor Andrew Frank: andrew.frank@baltimorecity.gov
- City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake: CouncilPresident@baltimorecity.gov
- Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke: MaryPat.Clarke@baltimorecity.gov
and above all, the one and only...
- Councilwoman Sharon Green Middleton: Sharon.Middleton@baltimorecity.gov!

Also absolutely crucial were the members of the 41st delegation to the Maryland General Assembly:

- Sen. Lisa A. Gladden: lisa.gladden@senate.state.md.us
- Del. Jill P. Carter: jill.carter@house.state.md.us
- Del. Nathaniel T. Oaks: nathaniel.oaks@house.state.md.us
- Del. Samuel I. Rosenberg: samuel.rosenberg@house.state.md.us

While individual e-mails would be better, for the time pressed this web site has a blast e-mail system that allows multiple recipients to be e-mailed simultaneously.

To e-mail the mayor and all council members simultaneously, use RPCityReps@rolandpark.org.

To e-mail the mayor and First Deputy Mayor Andrew Frank simultaneously, use RPCityExec@rolandpark.org.

To e-mail the Maryland General Assembly District 41 delegation members simultaneously, use RPStateReps@rolandpark.org.

All these e-mail links, and more, may be found at the “officials” page on the RP web site, for which see <http://rolandpark.org/RPReps.html>.

3. Roland Park History and Ecology Lectures.

Please remember that the second and third lectures in the “Roland Park History and Ecology” series are coming up.

i. Roland Park and the Olmsted Legacy: Wed., Apr. 29, 7-9pm, Women’s Club of Roland Park, 4500 Roland Ave. Free! In the late 19th century, Roland Park formed part of a vision of America championed by Frederick Law Olmsted and other pioneer urban landscapers and planners. That vision recognized the importance of green space and park networks in making burgeoning cities livable. Those features are evident in Roland Park, one of the first planned urban communities in the U.S. Participants will learn about Roland Park’s origins and the ongoing work of the Olmsted Parks Conservancy.

Lecturers: Jean Mellot, Friends of Maryland’s Olmsted Parks and Landscapes Board; and Jerry Baum, Immediate Past President, National Association of Olmsted Parks.

ii. Green Space Policy Options and One Park: Wed., May 13, 7-9pm, North Baltimore Mennonite Church, 4615 Roland Ave. Free! Baltimore is endowed with several Olmsted-designed parks and green spaces. However, crucial greenways to connect these jewels, as Olmsted envisioned, are missing. This lecture will present an overview of the One Park concept and will show how implementing it would affect Baltimore’s quality of life. Participants will discuss case studies from other communities that have preserved green space. Participants will learn about the City’s Master Plan, which envisions connecting greenways, bicycle and pedestrian paths, reforestation and other innovative proposals.

Lecturers: Steve Ziger, Parks and People Foundation Board; Peter Harnik, City Parks Alliance and the Trust for Public Land; and Tom Stosur, Baltimore City Planning (invited).

4. Spring in Roland Park!

Not to be outdone, the Roland Park Community Foundation invites you to celebrate spring in Roland Park. Friday, April 24, 2009, 6:30-10pm. The Woman’s Club of Roland Park, 4500 Roland Avenue. Tickets, \$60 per person: Proceeds will go to the Roland Park Community Foundation. Please make checks payable to the Roland Park Community Foundation. RSVP by April 10. Roland Park Community Foundation, P.O. Box 643, Riderwood, Maryland 21139.

5. Firehouse Update.

Thanks in good measure to the fantastically successful chili competition, Feb. 28 (see below), to date we have a little more than \$13,000 of the needed \$30,000 for repairs on the dilapidated Roland Park firehouse, the oldest in the city. The organizers have set a deadline of Mar. 30 for the \$30,000.

The response from the residential community has been great, but we are hoping for more from

local area businesses, organizations and schools.

As of now, the firehouse campaign would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their contributions:

Funding

- Chow Mein Charlie's
- Wyndhurst Improvement Association (Tuxedo and Embla parks).

Product Donations:

- Starbucks, Roland Avenue
- Eddie's of Roland Park
- Roland Park Deli

Consulting or Service Help:

- Whole Foods Mt. Washington
- Waste Neutral Group

Please support your community with a generous donation. We will publicly showcase merchants that make larger contributions from the following categories: silver (\$500-1,000), gold (\$1,000-3,000) and platinum support (\$3,000 and up). We will acknowledge donors in our newsletter, the *Roland Park News*, that is mailed to more than 1,000 households in Roland Park, and recognize them on this community web site.

6. RP Beautification Committee.

The RP Beautification, Infrastructure, Gardens & Landscapes Committee will meet Monday, March 23, 7:30pm to 9pm at Louise Phipps Senft's home, 102 Longwood Road. The committee has successfully worked with the city on new curbing for Elmwood that is a more suitable color than that originally intended and, for sidewalk repairs, an agreement for the use of attractive aggregate concrete. It will be discussing plans for path walks, path stewardship and maintenance, a native plant sale and swap, a community garden, and a Cold Spring Lane beautification effort. Please come join the committee members on get on the e-mail distribution list. For details, e-mail Louise at mediate@starpower.net.

7. Chili Competition.

Congratulations are due to Matthew Brennan, winner of the judges' choice award for his Matty B's Silly Chili at the 1st annual Home for Heroes Chili Cookoff last night, Feb. 28! And to Firefighter Joe Steele, winner of the people's choice award for his Phoenix Rising Chili.

The first runner-up was Paul Bartlett for his Fire Alarm Ghost Chili and second runner-up was Michelle Pasternack for her Mama's Chili. Other chili chefs included Lissa Caltrider (Quiero Mas Chili), Ron Schmelzer (No Tomato Turkey Chili), Keith Couch (East Texas Chili), Tom Hickey (Vegetarian Pumpkin Chili Masala), David Soderblom (Flavor, Not Heat Chili), Kathleen Truelove (WASP Chili) and Bill Helfrich (Five-Star Chili).

We'd like to thank our volunteer judges for their efforts, including Mary K. Zajac, food columnist

for *Style* magazine; Leah Eskin, author and food columnist; Steve Summers, co-owner and manager of Loco Hombre and Alonso's; Joe Pryor, assistant chief of planning and administration for the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD); Rudy Leonard, firefighter/paramedic for the BCFD; and Phil Spevak, president of the Roland Park Civic League.

More than 150 people enjoyed the event, which raised approximately \$2,500 for the Home for Heroes Campaign. We thank Councilwoman Sharon Green Middleton, Angie Black, Kristy Taylor and Larry Nunley for their support. We're grateful that several members of our local firehouse were able to attend as well, including Mike Hinline.

Our thanks also go out to the great crew that helped with the set up and clean up, and helped out during the event! In particular, it was great to have so many terrific kids helping out, including Jac Culotta, Luke Sullivan, Victoria Pauza, Maddie and Devon Stuzin, Alex Schelle, Sally Askew, Grant Everett and Will Marani. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work."

Thanks to our friends and neighbors for donating soft drinks, cornbread and desserts. Thanks also to Anita Ward of Roland Park Bakery & Deli for donating cornbread, Jo Alexander of Eddie's of Roland Park for donating bread baskets, Molly Kushner of Whole Foods, Mt. Washington, for advising us on composting, and Keith Lasoya of Waste Neutral Group for composting all biodegradable materials from this party and, in return, providing us with nutrient-rich compost for use this spring or summer.

Best regards,

D.P. Munro
Web-site Editor
RolandPark.org

(Martha Marani and Kate Culotta contributed to this e-letter.)