

Roland Park E-letter

Web Editor's E-letter
November 30, 2008

1. BCC/Keswick — Holiday Wishes to the Mayor.

Mayor Sheila Dixon has issued a letter pertaining to the BCC/Keswick issue. The letter may be read in full by visiting:

<http://rolandpark.org/documents/DixonToSpevakNov08.PDF>.

In the letter, the mayor says that she will not introduce a PUD (planned unit development) for the Keswick plan in its current form. This is the good news. However, the letter also expresses hope that Roland Park and Keswick will continue discussions at least through until March 15, 2009.

Appreciated though it is, this letter should not lull us into a false sense of security. The contract between BCC and Keswick still has over two years to run, a period during which the protagonists will no doubt hope — albeit it vainly — to wear down community opposition. And the mayor's letter seems to imply that she hopes that Roland Park will accept a smaller development by Keswick, despite RP's previously expressed desire for open space.

Please gently remind the mayor of the Roland Park position by sending her a personal holiday card, via snail mail, reminding her of a tax-paying neighborhood's overwhelming opposition to the development.

The mayor's street address and e-mail address may be found here:
<http://rolandpark.org/RPReps.html>.

If you are e-mailing the mayor as well, please copy First Deputy Mayor Andrew Frank. If you use the new "Exec Blast" link at <http://rolandpark.org/RPReps.html>, your e-mail will simultaneously go to Mayor Dixon and Mr. Frank. The Exec Blast e-mail address is RPCityExec@rolandpark.org.

Council members that have publicly opposed the PUD, stated that they will not introduce the PUD or supported Councilwoman Middleton's position are: Rawlings-Blake (council president), Clarke, Henry, Kraft, Middleton, Reisinger, Spector, Conway and Young. No council member is on record has supporting the PUD. Perhaps a thank-you note to each might be in order. Their addresses are also at <http://rolandpark.org/RPReps.html>.

2. Civic League Monthly Meeting — Discussion of CHAP Status for RP, Education in Baltimore.

As usual, the meeting will be at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church, 4801 Roland Avenue, 7-9pm. This is a particularly important meeting, as the league will discuss the idea of making Roland Park a Baltimore City Historic District, under the auspices of the Commission for Historical & Architectural Preservation (CHAP). According to proponents, the advantage of CHAP historic-district designation is that CHAP has the legal authority to prevent the issuance of any permit for a development that would negatively impact the historic character of the neighborhood, including the prevention of demolition and protection against the loss of historic open spaces.

Following the CHAP discussion, Plat 5 (County) Plat Rep Muriel Berkeley will make a presentation on educational issues affecting our children in Baltimore. Dr. Berkeley is the co-founder and president of the Baltimore Curriculum Project.

3. Sustainability Commission Presentation.

On a related theme, the Mayor's Commission on Sustainability will be presenting its draft report at public meeting with Mayor Dixon on December 3 at 6pm. The location is Frederick Douglass High School, 2301 Gwynns Falls Parkway, Baltimore. This may be an opportunity to remind policy makers of the importance of urban green space.

For further details, see <http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/planning/sustainability>.

4. Roland Park Firehouse Fund Raiser.

There will be a Roland Park Firehouse Fund Raiser, Saturday, Dec. 13. This will be a fund-raising event for the Upland Street firehouse, which has served Roland park for well over a century and which needs much maintenance work. Cookies and hot drinks will be served. No reservations or registrations necessary. Just show up — 2-4pm. Councilwoman Sharon Middleton and other notables will be arriving at about 2:45pm.

Charitable donations to the firehouse can now be made through the RP web site by visiting this URL: <http://rolandpark.org/duescivicleague.htm> (payment is made through PayPal).

5. BCC/Keswick Signs.

The BCC/Keswick battle is not over. Please do not throw away your old preservationist signs. Please keep them out in your yards. The signs are a very effective means of keeping community opposition to the proposed development in full view. If you have no signs and would like some, please contact signs@rolandpark.org.

6. City Leaf-vacuuming Trials.

The city's leaf-vacuuming pilot program is upon us. Roland Park's streets will be done one by one, Dec. 1-12. Starting tomorrow, to the degree possible, cars should not be

parked on public streets during the vacuuming hours of operation, 7am-3pm (though no parking tickets will be given to cars that are parked).

The city will make one sweep down the street and leaves should be raked into the street before service start dates, Dec. 1 for Roland Park, and not after the city has vacuumed. After the city has done a street, it will only accept bagged leaves, which will be collected on the second trash-collection day.

7. Another Lost Dog.

Recently, I received the e-mail below, about another lost dog, this one found near Eddie's supermarket. Here is the text of the e-mail I received:

“Doug, Could you please post a notice on the web site or the list serve about a dog that was found in front of Eddie's this evening (11/23). It was an older yellow lab/mixed-breed female. She looks to be at least 7-8 years old, and she is very friendly and docile. She had a red collar with Vermont rabies tag but no other I.D. A woman named Martha who lives in Hampden took her home and will try to locate her owner. Martha's phone number is 410-467-3643.”

Best regards,

D.P. Munro
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RolandPark.org