

Roland Park Civic League Minutes
June 4, 2014
Roland Park Presbyterian Church

Present: Chris McSherry, Muriel Berkeley, Anne Porterfield, Paula Dube, Andrew Marani, Elisabeth Sachs, Kurt Overton, Seemalyer, Jennifer Vey, LesleeBevalacqua, Chris Cortright, Patti Ephraim, Trish Caroll, Steve Grantz, Tim Schere

Absent: Ian MacFarlane, Andrew Wolfe, Laura Grier

New Business

- 1) Approval of the May 7th minutes was postponed until next month.
- 2) The Treasurer's Report was postponed until next month.
- 3) There was a presentation of recognition to the neighborhood Girl Scout Troop for their work on the uniform drive for the Park Heights Renaissance Community.
- 4) The new Board Members were introduced: LesleeBivalacqua, Chris Cortwright, Patti Ephraim, Trish Carroll and Steve Grantz
- 5) There was a presentation by Roland Park Country School about the new storm water management system construction and tree removal. Representatives included: Nancy Mugele and Duncan Booth from RPCS; Abby Cocke from the Baltimore Planning Department, Forest Conservation Easements; and George Twigg from Site Resources Engineers.

A summary of the presentation by RPCS follows:

- a. The RPCS Storm Water Remediation Plan dates back to 2012. The approved plan includes tree removal, construction of a storm water management system and reforestation.
- b. Twenty nine trees were identified for removal for various reasons and also on advice from Davey Tree and Scientific Plant Service regarding tree protection, deep root fertilization and management of invasive plants. Kinsley is the contractor for the pipe installation. Tree removal has been done by Baltimore Tree Experts.
- c. The goal is to prevent runoff into Deepdene Road and related erosion. They are installing curbing and creating a system that will have enough capacity to hold the water associated with a severe storm. New pipes will accommodate this. They did a hydraulic analysis with the City to make sure new water flow would not be any faster with a new system than at present. Duncan Booth and Nancy Mugele said that they were collecting all of the water from the hillside and piping it down to the wetland area at the SW corner of their property, but that hydraulic analysis showed that the water being collected and piped downhill would not flow any faster than without the SWM system and would be released slowly enough to be absorbed.
- d. The system with its tanks will capture some of the sediment that now dumps onto Edgevale Road. The projected end date for the piping system is August 15, 2014. They are working on a comprehensive reforestation plan for replanting trees. The City will have to approve that tree planting plan. RPCS reps are happy to answer individual questions and concerns. They have an ongoing storm water management plan for the back woods and the entire campus.

Abby Cocke from the Baltimore City Department of Planning addressed the requirements of reforestation including what types and size of trees to replant. The tree removal plan was given a lot of scrutiny by the City. Abbey Cocke said that they were removing 29 trees of 2-3" caliper, but didn't know the number of smaller trees that were removed. She said that the City would

require that they replant 34 new trees with a 2.5" caliper as the canopy trees. She didn't know about the understory trees or what they would plant to prevent invasive plants from moving in and taking over.

There was discussion about sharing reforestation plans with the community and also possibly having RPCS replant even outside of the campus to make up for the canopy lost. RPCS said they would come back to RPCL to share the reforestation plan.

The following issues were raised during Q&A:

- The City rep was asked about looking into the condition of the storm water down Deepdene separate from and including RPCS.
- There was also a question about plans by RPCS to assess the success/impact of the new system after installation.
- CL Members commented that better and more frequent communication about these types of projects should be encouraged if not required by the City. CL Member commented that RPCS should have taken up RPCL on multiple offers to address the board.
- RPCS's Mugele asked that the neighbors call the school about problems they see.
- There was also a question about a retaining wall, which is old and crumbling. It requires consultation with St. Mary's Seminary.

Old Business

- 1) **Report from the Baltimore City Police Department:** Larceny from autos (clothes, laptops, GPS) are up in this area. Most thefts occur when items are visible. Thefts are between 1 a.m. - 5 a.m. Call the police if you see anyone suspicious. They can question the person and run a check. Motion lights are a big deterrent. Northern District will engrave your property for you.
- 2) **Report on the Annual Meeting:** New board members were approved.
- 3) **Cross Keys Renovations/Redevelopment:** Chris McSherry reported that there is not an update at this time.
- 4) **Zoning Committee Report:** There were no new updates.
- 5) **Roland Avenue Paving:** Al Copp reported.
There is still a need for a storm water management permit. DOT says they are working on it. The contractor is ready to start. Chris suggested getting Councilwoman Middleton involved. Al will wait one more day and then contact Middleton's office.
- 6) **Water Tower:** Al Copp reported.
The City has asked us to assume responsibility for design administration. RPCF money will be used. The reviews of design plans will go faster this way. There is also an issue of getting a crane to examine the building that may impact the existing ring of trees. Some of those trees may need to be removed.
- 7) **Maintenance Committee:** Andrew Marani reported.
The tree that was down on Hilltop Path was removed by the property owner. There was a lot of damage to the path in the removal. Andrew will get prices for repairs to the path.
- 8) **Bike Rally:** There is no news to report.
- 9) **Reassignment of the street repaving coordination with the City.** Trish Carroll agreed to take it on.
- 10) **Reassignment of tree canopy survey:** Al Copp will continue to help but needs a new coordinator. Chris Cortwright took that on along with Patti Ephraim.
- 11) **Reassignment of the Traffic Committee:** Anne Porterfield is taking this on.

12) **Reassignment of the New Neighbors Welcome Baskets:** Leslie Bivalacqua will help Hillary Paska.

13) **July 4th Parade:** Nigel Ephraim will be assisting Chris McSherry.

14) **Schedule of Meetings:** RPCL meetings are the first Wednesday of the month. We will not meet in August. The next meeting is Wednesday July 2.

Adjourned: 9:05 p.m.