

Roland Park Civic League Minutes  
July 2, 2014  
Roland Park Presbyterian Church

Present: Chris McSherry, Andrew Marani, Elisabeth Sachs, Kurt Overton, Jennifer Vey,  
Leslee Bevalacqua, Chris Cortright, Patti Ephraim, Kurt Overton, Ian MacFarlane, Paula  
Dube,

Absent: Laura Grier, Tim Schere, Muriel Berkeley, Trish Carroll, Steve Grantz, Andrew Wolfe,  
Anne Porterfield

### **New Business**

- 1) Approval of the Minutes was postponed until next month.
- 2) The Treasurer's Report was postponed until next month.
- 3) DPW Project Update:  
DPW will be starting a planned comprehensive assessment of the condition of RP's small, six-inch pipe lines. They provided maps and aerial views of the proposed work. The portion of the project at Deepdene and Roland will begin immediately in order not to conflict with upcoming repaving of Roland Avenue. They are starting at the corner of Deepdene and Roland and north on the NB side of Roland in front of RPEMS so that this part of the project can be finished before school starts.
- 4) Report from the Baltimore City Police Department:  
Northern District Update; Captain James and Officer O'Donnell reported

Main Message: Be Vigilant. Keep your property well-lit. Motion sensor lights are invaluable. Call 911 to report suspicious persons in the neighborhood.

### **Overall Crime Stats**

Overall, crime is down in the Northern District. However:

- a. There was robbery spree a few months ago and the suspects have been caught. Among them was a juvenile on home monitoring at the time, which has allowed police to use GPS tracking to place him at the scene of a number of incidents.
- b. Larceny from autos and garage and shed burglaries are up in the Roland Park and in the Northern District. Advice: Lock vehicles and remove all valuables from inside.
- c. Residential Burglaries - recent incidents on Somerset Road  
Police are generally working to enforce the curfew laws. Many of these crimes are being committed by juveniles who are released within hours and are back on the street. Call 911 if you see suspicious people, including juveniles, in the neighborhood.
- d. Lawn Mower Ruse - Juveniles are going through Roland Park, ringing door bells ostensibly to see if resident want their lawn mowed. When there is no answer, they target the home for burglary. Call police if you see juveniles going door to door with a mower. They are getting in and out of houses with electronics/TVs and also coins and silverware.
- e. The recent perpetrators are juveniles from outside of the Northern District.

Some actions steps were discussed:

- a. Sign up for Crime Watch numbers. 911 may take these calls more seriously
- b. The District is putting more presence on major thoroughfares like Coldspring Lane.

- c. The City Councilmembers requested a greater police presence south of Coldspring where recent crimes have taken place.

Questions:

- a. Do police have stats on response time? It recently took 13 minutes for police to respond to a burglary on Somerset Road in June. A: It depends. A "crime in progress" called into 911 would be superseded by a shooting called in.
- b. Can there be more cars patrolling the areas off Coldspring Lane and near Somerset where recent incidents have occurred?
- c. Call the Northern District to put in a special attention request when you are going to be on extended vacation or if see the same suspicious activity on a regular basis. It will be read at daily roll call.
- d. Do private security patrols make a difference? Councilmembers Clarke and Middleton talked about patrols in Coldspring Newtown and Guildford. They can make a difference and assist police. Roland Park looked into it in 2012.

## Old Business

### 1) Cross Keys Renovations/Redevelopment Update

At the most recent meeting of the Cross Keys Maintenance Corporation Joe Press of Ashkenazy Acquisitions was questioned closely about what, if any, decisions have been made regarding the commercial property, etc. He reported that:

- a. Two new tenants will be locating in the Village Square.
- b. Discussions are underway with at least two parties who have expressed interest in creating a fitness center in the village.
- c. The future of the gatehouse is longer an issue: the architecture will remain as is and AAI will both repair and maintain it.
- d. Any additional signage out front will be unobtrusive and subdued.
- e. Additional and more user-friendly pedestrian access to the village is being developed.

This summer CKMC will resurface the main avenue from where the recent re-paving ended at the intersection of Hamill and Cross Keys Roads all the way around to the Quadrangle.

### 2) Roads and Maintenance. Trudy Bartel reported:

Organic Debris: The current vendor wants to increase the fee to \$35 from \$25. This is a 40% increase.

Motion: Trudy to negotiate a new contract that does not exceed \$28,000.

Motion approved.

Hilltop Path: Need to repair the path that was damaged by tree removal. Estimates are still coming in. Part of the path was already slated for repair but tree removal contractor added to the damage. We are trying to find out who the contractor was.

### 3) July 4<sup>th</sup> parade: The Mayor and City Council President will be there along with Sandy Rosenberg and perhaps other 41<sup>st</sup> district legislators. It will begin at 10 a.m. in front of the Library.

- 4) Holiday shop and dine: LesleeBivalacqua agreed to take over the project and coordinate with new neighbor baskets.
- 5) Broadband campaign: We way surpassed RP goal. There are up to 700 people in North Baltimore.
- 6) Schedule of Meetings: There is no August meeting.

Adjourned: 8:56 p.m.