

Roland Park Civic League Minutes  
September 3, 2014  
Roland Park Presbyterian Church

Present: Chris McSherry, Laura Grier, Andrew Marani, Elisabeth Sachs, Tim Schere, Jennifer Vey, Chris Cortright, Patti Ephraim, Muriel Berkeley, Steve Grantz, Kurt Overton, Anne Porterfield, Paula Dube, Andrew Wolfe, Ian McFarlane

Absent: Leslee Bivalacqua, Trish Carroll,

New Business:

1) Mt. Washington Conference Center Presentation - A representative from the conference center attended. The conference center is renovated and has a new property manager. They want Roland Park residents to know that the conference center has hotel rooms available to the general public, including for family events and special occasions.

2) Architectural Review Committee – Paula Dube reported. The Committee proposed to add Jeff Brown as the Plat 6 rep on the committee.

Motion: Jeff Brown to serve on the Architectural Review Committee.

Motion Approved. There is also an effort to explore the committee's legal authority and enforcement powers under the various covenants.

3) Firefighters: No updates. There was discussion of a tree at Upland and Roland that is impeding the function of a fire hydrant that serves the condos on Upland. Robert Ginyard from Sharon Middleton's office will look into it.

4) Roland Avenue Repaving – Chris McSherry reported.

a. Fifty-five trees throughout neighborhood were removed. RPCL had only known about the ones on Roland Avenue. They are not taking good young trees and all will be replaced. Al Copp reported that there will be a net gain and 150 total will be put up. Chris McSherry wrote to all homeowners near the trees slated for removal to alert them to the upcoming tree work. There was also an article in the Roland Park News. T

b. The RPEMS PTA asked for a meeting about what would be happening in front of the school. There were three separate meetings with DPW, DOT and Chris McSherry and Robert Ginyard from Councilwoman Middleton's office and Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke. One outstanding DOT issue is the corner of Deepdene and Roland and the tree pits in front of M&T bank. Chris and Councilwoman Clarke reported that there will be grates installed and the landscaping plans were shared with the PTA reps. The only area of concern is still an area in front of Starbucks at the corner of Deepdene and Roland. These meetings also covered traffic enforcement in a.m. and p.m. near the school especially the problem of double parking. The crossing guard is only able to enforce on school property. Also, City parking enforcement can't ticket double parkers until 15 minutes have passed. A police officer can ticket! Chris will continue to urge the Northern District's Major Burrus to put an officer out there.

5) Roland Avenue Pipe Work – Chris McSherry reported. This project is going well and Chris is please with their operations and accommodation of school traffic. DPW has agreed to do pipe work after 9a.m. but some days it may occur up to and after 5 p.m. because once they start bursting the pipes, they cannot halt until the bursting is finished. The Roland Park listserv has maps of safe walking routes during all of the Roland Avenue construction projects. Ian McFarlane reported on the DPW "camera project" to

look at pipes throughout neighborhood. The project is on track and successfully staying ahead of the repaving project. There is also a separate sewer break project on Roland near the Water Tower. There will not longer be DPW equipment parked on the median on Roland because that impacts the trees

- 6) Water Tower - Al Copp reported. There are three contracts: external, internal and the park. We have funding for all of the external improvements and design has begun. They will commission a costing study of the internal improvements. We will not have to remove trees to accommodate a crane to see the top of the building.
- 7) Cross Keys Renovations – Chris McSherry reported. There was a July meeting. GTI is the new architectural team. Plans to remove the gatehouse have been scrapped. The RPCL team rejected the idea of a lot of signage on the outside of Red Door, etc.
- 8) RPCS storm water management: Chris McSherry reported. Plans presented in June said all water will go down the hill and released into a pond area. In reality, two outlets are still spilling on Deepdene Road. One outlet is old and one is new. These are collecting water from all the parking lots and it is all going into these two outlets, which overflow in every heavy rainfall – both in terms of volume and velocity. RPCS had told Chris that the new system cannot handle this overflow. Both the City rep and RPCS said it was designed as approved and it is done. This was not an unintended consequence. It was designed that way. Chris reports that the erosion is significant. There continues to be an issue with water dumping out at the retaining wall abutting the Seminary property. They are however adequately capturing some of the water that used to cascade all the way down but it is collecting at the bottom and undermining the retaining wall. There was a discussion about strategic next steps.
- 9) Roland Park Shopping Center – Chris McSherry reported. The shopping center owners, the Wards, were taking out antique windows and replacing them with generic window. They had not obtained approvals from the RPCL or from CHAP. Chris called Trisha Ward immediately. She claimed it was a repair. Chris consulted CHAP and they issued a stop work order. The Wards are supposed to put the old windows back and have said they have hired a company in Annapolis that can restore the old style windows. The Wards need to provide the RPCL Architectural Review Committee with the with specs to see if they comply. Paula reported that they have also replaced windows on the side of the building that are not approved. That has not yet been broached.
- 10) Boy Scouts - Luke, a Boy Scout, looking to earn his next badge, attended the meeting to learn what we do.
- 11) Parking at University and 40th - The Carlisle Apartments' tenant residents take up all of the street parking. Chris noted that the nearby homeowners might be able to tack on to the residential permit parking designation already allocated on Deepdene.
- 12) Left Turn Lanes - Chris McSherry reported. In an effort to slow down cut through traffic in the mornings between Falls Road and Roland, there has been a proposal to put up signs on the cross streets at Falls Road to limit traffic. There were petitions circulated over the summer and some residents on Elmwood Road and Falls Road Terrace expressed concerns. It was decided that residents who would be directly impacted by the proposed a.m. traffic change will receive a letter inviting them to the October RPCL meeting to discuss the proposal.

Adjourned: 8:44 p.m.