

Roland Park Civic League Minutes
November 5, 2014
Roland Park Presbyterian Church

Present: Chris McSherry, Laura Grier, Andrew Marani, Elisabeth Sachs, Trish Carroll, Jennifer Vey, Chris Cortright, Muriel Berkeley, Steve Grantz, Kurt Overton, Anne Porterfield, Andrew Wolfe,

Absent: Leslee Bivalacqua, Patti Ephraim, Paula Dube, Ian McFarlane, Tim Schere

New Business

- 1) Legislators' Report: Delegates Sandy Rosenberg and Nat Oaks and Senator Lisa Gladden attended and described the possible impact of tax cuts proposed by Governor elect Larry Hogan, based on his campaign statements and positions. They also asked for input on issues that the community might like addressed/introduced this session.
- 2) Northern District Police Report: Officer Douglas Gibson reported.
Overall crime - Nonviolent crime is down. Violent Crime is slightly up including residential robberies and street robberies. Residential robberies were up over the summer especially in Homeland, along York Road and in Charles Village. Street robberies are up and the Major is deploying resources.

The officers also reported that they are on the lookout for a Silver Acura or Mazda associated with drug exchanges in the neighborhood. Extra officers have been deployed including some plain clothes officers, whom residents have called about(!)

Drug Drops - Officer Gibson reported. When we call in tag numbers and vehicle descriptions to 911, it helps police know when to patrol and what to look for. This can serve as a deterrent to drug drops that are occurring. There have also been cell phone drug deals in quiet, tree lined neighborhoods off of the East-West thoroughfares like Northern Pkwy and Coldspring Lane. Sometimes police will call the owner of the vehicle, who may not know that vehicle is being used for these purposes.

There was also a question about an assault of fifth grader on Deepdene Road by other juveniles who took his cell phone. Unfortunately this is a fairly common occurrence after school in certain neighborhoods.

Old Business

- 4) Little Free Library: Kathy Hudson reported.
It has been tricky to get the City to approve the donation of the little free libraries. There are some in Oakenshawe and at Belvedere Square. This one would be in Linkwood Park. The Friends School headmaster had expressed interest in hosting one on the Roland Park Pool property.
- 5) Join the Roland Park listserve!
- 6) Maintenance Committee: Trudy Bartel reported.
There is now a contract to fix the damage to Hilltop Path. Trudy is exploring a snow removal contract. They are also working with the contractor who cleans up leaves on Laurel Path, which the contractor then blows the leaves onto people's property. Resident was requested to send a picture of the blown leaves.

Falls Road Terrace median –The City has only done some of the necessary work. We have a bid out to remove the organic debris that is between Falls Road and Falls Road Terrace. Some

of it is a result of the repaving of Falls Road. Once we clean it up, we would add it to the K and C contract. Two questions were posed: Should we get full fees from residents who would benefit? Do residents want the area cleaned up?

On one section, residents like some of the foliage as a screen from traffic and noise. We need to get agreement from neighbors that nothing new will go in there (i.e. no leaf dumping). Otherwise the clean up will be for nothing. Contractors also blow leaves and put stuff there.

Two related issues were discussed: The City's maintenance of the area has declined. The Falls Road Terrace road surface needs repaving.

On the Northern end: Trudy will work with Tom Hoen to schedule a meeting of neighbors to discuss how to handle the area from Edgevale to Englewood.

Elmwood to Harvest (southern end): The grass does not get mowed. We have a bid for our contractor to mow that area since the City does not do it. Chris suggested another meeting for residents along that area about what they want and who might pay full fees, etc.

Proposal: Roland Park Maintenance Committee does the clean up for a year and ask for full fees from residents. If no one pays up, we stop the debris maintenance.

7)Left Turn Lanes: Chris McSherry reported.

There interest by some residents to slow down "cut through" traffic in the a.m. between Falls Road and Roland Avenue. The proposal was to put up signs limiting traffic. There were petitions circulated. Elmwood Road and Falls Road Terrace residents raised questions. A letter was sent to residents of the affected streets inviting them went to attend a discussion at the November RPCL meeting.

Residents were asked to speak. One resident noted that the proposed changes would limit her access to her house and her street. Beechdale resident spoke about the problem of cut through cars further up.

Residents offered informal car counts/traffic studies about traffic during the school rush hour on Deepdene. Chris reported that the City rejected a prior request for speed bumps on Deepdene.

There were suggestions about where to place the signs and whether the streets should be one way instead. Others said that one-way streets encourage people to increase their speed.

It was agreed that the next step would be to submit a petition to the City and ask how to exempt Falls Road Terrace from the traffic pattern change and perhaps narrow the restricted time window.

Shop Local Initiative: Motion to support the shop local initiative.
Motion Approved.

Adjourned: 9:10 p.m.