

Roland Park Civic League Annual Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 21, 2015

Roland Park Elementary & Middle School

Attendance: Chris McSherry, Andrew Marani, Kathleen Truelove, Kurt Overton, Elizabeth Sachs, Steve Gantz, Jennifer Vey, Patti Ephraim, Andrew Wolfe, Leslee Bivalacqua, Trish Carroll, Chris Cortright, Ian MacFarlane

Guests: Maryland State Senator Lisa Gladden, District 41; John Gilmore, Deputy Sheriff for Baltimore City; William Johnson, Baltimore City Department of Transportation; Catelyn Doolan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner, Baltimore City

Call to Order: 7:09 PM Greeting and opening statements by Chris McSherry

Opening statement: Introduced guest Senator Gladden. Ms. Gladden thanked residents for staying in the community of Roland Park and their commitment to the city. Senator Gladden introduced John Gilmore, Deputy Sheriff for Baltimore City, whom she invited to the meeting to see first hand how the members of our community demonstrate leadership and civic engagement.

Minutes: Minutes from Annual Meeting 2014 and Annual Meeting 2013 read by Elizabeth Sachs. Motion to approve by Chris McSherry. 2nd from the floor. Approved

Finances: Financial update by Treasurer John Kevin. The report was sent out electronically. The Civic League donated \$13,000 to the RPEMS in support of the technology campaign. There are \$154,000 in assets. Motion to approve, Chris McSherry, 2nd from the floor. Approved

Maintenance: Four snow events this year. Falls Road Terrace was added to the area, but will be in the regular rotation. Path repair: Report from K&C – hilltop path is the most dire need for repair. Estimate of \$10K-\$12K, including other path. There are 8 months of debris pickup with no pickup in August, December, January, or February. The decision to not pick up debris in August was made because many people are away from their homes during that month and there is reduced amount of debris to pick up.

Election of new officers: motion from the floor to approve the slate as presented with the addition of

Anne Porterfield to fill the Plat 3 vacancy. 2nd to the motion from the floor. Approved

President: Chris McSherry

1st Vice President: Andrew Marani

2nd Vice President: Laura

Secretary: Patti Ephraim

Treasurer: Patricia Carroll

Plat 1:

Plat 5 County: Dan Motts

Plat 5 City: Steve Grantz

Plat 6: Bob Connors

At Large: Elizabeth Sachs

The remaining plat positions were not up for re-election this year.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: 1st & 2nd motion from the floor

RPEMS School Principal: RPEMS was recognized as an Excellence in Gifted and Talented (EGATE) School. They are ending the last year of 5-year plan. During the Fall fund raiser, the Civic League donated \$13,100 to support improved school technology. Previously,

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there was a ratio of 40 students to 1 technology device. The goal is to achieve a 10 student to 1 device ratio. They raised a total of \$100,000 during the technology fundraising drive. In the library mini-computer lab, 15 new computer stations have been added for student to use in the morning, during lunch period, after school. This is especially beneficial to those students who do not have computers at home. They will dedicate the library mini-computer lab to the Roland Park Civic League.

Architecture: There were 75 new applications for external renovations this year. The majority were approved by the committee as submitted. The remaining, were approved with minor revisions, with only a couple disapproved. The committee members meet once a month, including August. Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 3rd Tuesday of the month is the deadline for the meeting.

Bicycle Track Presentation: There was a presentation by Catelyn Doolan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner, Baltimore City. The City has recognized that there is an opportunity with the repaving of Roland Avenue project to create a new bicycle track. With the new design that places the bike lane between the curb and parked cars, the parked cars act as a buffer to protect the cyclists from the cars that are driving on the street. Flex cones are placed in certain places to allow for movement in and out. Research has demonstrated that the majority of people don't ride a bike in the city because there are no protected paths. Given speed and volume on Roland Avenue, the protected bike path is recommended. There are 132 bike tracks around the country with this design. The lane is constructed with a 4 ft bike lane, 2 ft buffer, to block car door opening from the bike lane. This would reduce the car travel lane to 10.5 ft lane that helps to calm traffic. Currently the car travel lane is 11 ft. (for comparison, the car lanes on the highway are 12 ft.). The proposal would include delineated area where the school/pick up zone is located, bust stops, with colored area to make cyclists aware that it is a mixed zone. They would do the same for driveways. Overall, they are proposing removing 10 parking spaces. In terms of traffic flow, the proposal aims to keep the current capacity, but slow down the speed of traffic. They will plan to hold a Community Meeting to present the design. The goal is to complete construction by the Fall 2015.

Open Discussion:

- Is it possible to extend the bike track? The bike track will extend from Cold Spring to Northern parkway. Extension to Lake Avenue would require identification of additional resources.
- Federal regulations recommended 10 Ft. travel lane, why is this 10.5 ft? State highway funds are allocated for the project and the State guidelines require a 10.5 ft. travel lane.
- How many intersections will have the bump out? Deepdene and Roland, St Johns, Coldspring Lane, Oakdale, by Petit Louis
- How will the bike track affect visibility of bikers when cars are trying to make a right hand turn? They are proposing removing 10 parking spaces at intersection to accommodate 20 ft. space and create visibility for the bikers at the intersection.

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- How do we best accommodate both young children, slower bikers, and commuters, faster bikers? There is no room to pass another bicyclist in the bicycle track. However, faster cyclists would have the option of using the roadway.
- If cars are exceeding the speed limit, there are additional things that can be done to slow people down. One, is enforcement of the speed limit. Why do we need a cyclovia to feel safe on a bicycle? The missing element is enforcement. More traffic Safety enforcement, more police officers.
- Why is Roland Avenue designated as minor arterial? Not because of how they are designated, but more how people are using them.
- Near the Roland Park Women's Club, concern that women attending meetings will be getting out of their cars closer to traffic. Also, there will be a learning curve among the women to look before they open door into the bike track. Legally, disabled are able to use the cycle track to get to the next ADA compliant sidewalk entrance.
- Concern expressed regarding litter and debris pick-up in the bicycle track. Vacuum trucks to pick up leaves and debris. This is responsibility of DPW.
- How can we best prepare for extra bikes in the area? The city has a free bike rack program. They will remove the DOT fee (\$80) for businesses. The business can put in their own bike racks. For businesses that purchase racks, it is about 2 weeks for City to install the rack. "You buy it, we install it."
- There was a call for more cyclovia events.

Introductions: Introductions of Special Guest William Johnson, DOT Director, by Chris McSherry. (Presentation starts at 8:26 PM)

In response to concerns voiced regarding traffic and cars exceeding speed limit, Mr. Johnson said that Mr. Frank Murphy is looking at and evaluating traffic issues. They are in the process of hiring a new traffic engineer. Mr. Johnson provided an update on the Roland Park Paving Project. The DOT staff is focused on making sure that the quality of the work is up to par. Mr. Johnson encouraged RP residents to let DOT know about anything that they feel needs to be inspected to contact the community Liaison at 443-984-4095. Goal is to have the project complete by the time school starts in late August. Pushing contractors to make sure on that schedule. They have begun the milling and paving activities.

Open Discussion:

- Falls Road Terrace (Problem at 4900 block of Falls road Terrace) – new curbs added, but the area has not been repaved in 30 years. How to request paving? This is not part of the repaving project. DOT sends people to inspect roads throughout the city every year. They use a pavement index and assign each road a number. Capital projects group – funded by the State – local dollars are dictated through planning department. Funding has decreased significantly from \$100,000,000 in 2007 to \$30,000,000 today.

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- Concerns voiced regarding quality of the work: curb work, areas where the repaved road has come up to the level of the curb and there is no curb left. This will be a problem for drain off of water.
- Manhole covers will be smoothed over and corrected.
- Can residents report through 311 – take a picture that would be geocoded? This is not recommended. It will be more effective to call DOT.
- Roland Avenue and Gladstone. Water is not draining at that intersection on the Northbound side.
- How do the bumpouts slow traffic? There are 2 benefits: first, narrow roadway, visually narrower; second, you are creating a shorter crossing distance for pedestrians. Will there be special marking so that the bump outs can be seen at night? Yes, reflective markings inserted within.

Mary Paige Michael, Open Space Campaign: More than 200 people attended the Roland Park Annual Event. Funds raised were donated to Youth Empowerment Shelter (YES). Toiletries were collected for donation to Gilmore School. Doug Monroe, wrote book about Greater Roland Park, has donated all proceeds to Roland Park Community Foundation. Mary Paige reminded everyone to make sure they are on the list serve. Open Space Campaign, continue to meet. BCC working on contract negotiations with members of the community. OPC is working toward getting contract signed for the water tower renovations. Bond \$250,000 matching funds thank to Senator Gladden. Development of a master plan for Stony Run is in the works.

Phil Spevak, Broadband Campaign: Crowdfunding campaign identified three fiber providers who want to wire the city where there is support among residents. The Greater Mowndawmin Mall Council voted to support the broadband campaign. Over 1,000 people have joined the campaign. They are working with the city and encouraging them to announce what their role will be. The city has put out a Request for Information (RFI) on the issue. The goal would be that multiple users could be using it so that there is competition. There is a 30 day for comment period. National experts are invited to the meeting.

Civic League Report: There are two initiatives to report. Steve Grantz and Laura Grier spearheading effort to redesign the website. Kurt Overton coordinated with the Baltimore City Northern District Police Station to organize a bike donation. A total of 78 fully functional bikes were donated. Staff from Joe's Bike Shop donated time to repair bicycles on site. Northern District police brought the bikes to the Northern District Police Station for storage and arranging a date/time to deliver the bicycles to the Park Heights neighborhood. We are trying as a board to serve not just the needs of Roland Park, but also the greater needs of the city. Finally, the sewer line project is almost complete.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 PM