

Roland Park Civic League Meeting

February 3, 2016

Attendance: Chris McSherry, Andrew Marani, Kathleen Truelove, Laura Grier, Rob Horst, Anne Porterfield, Dan Motz, Chris Cortwright, Leslee Bivalaqua (no quorum)

Minutes: Not presented as Secretary was not present

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer not present

1. Robert Ginyard representing Sharon Middleton was present and several members of the community thanked him for his support in getting the streets plowed.
2. Agent Perfetto from the Northern District attended and related that crime statistics were very good in the last month – possibly snow helped. There were no questions from the floor. He also shared information on an upcoming event At the James D Gross Rec Center 4600 Lanier Ave. It is a forum for youth to come to voice their opinions on how police and the State's Attorney's Office can better serve young people.
3. Sarah Goldberg from Roland Park Place came to introduce herself and answer any questions that people had about RPP or their expansion plans. There were no questions. Chris described the work of the RPP Committee and that they are working together for a solution to lessen the impact on neighbors of the planned expansion.
4. Shelley Sehnert from the North Roland Park Community Association presented a plan for development of the land just east of the current Belvedere Towers land. There is a proposed 174 unit (250 car) apartment building to be added to the site which both North RP and Poplar Hill are opposing due to the inability of current infrastructure (roads and schools) to support this. Unfortunately, the covenants that the associations had on the development of this land expired 2 years ago. The land that is to be developed is zoned R6 and they have been unable, over the past 20 years of trying, to get it down-zoned. They have engaged their own people to conduct a traffic study for the impact on the Northern Parkway and Falls Road intersection. They are looking for any one with ideas (on down zoning

in particular) to come forward. Their councilperson has not been supportive of them in this situation.

The groups are also seeking to purchase 6.5 wooded acres behind this proposed development which has very old stands of trees and streams to keep as green space for the future. They have set up a non-profit (501(C) 3) towards that end. The Board expressed that we always support our neighboring associations when they are faced with challenges such as this.

Representatives of the RP Fire Company came – nothing to report but thanks to good plowing they were able to access fire hydrants to get them cleared.

5. It was decided that May 18th would be the date for the Roland Park Civic League General Meeting. It will be held at RPEMS

6. Vacancies on Board for 2016-17 are two at-large spaces, President role and one VP role. Chris McSherry is being nominated to move to 1st VP role and Jennifer Vey to move to 2nd VP role. From Plat 3 Rep. Cara Kohler has agreed to be nominated to fill Plat 3 vacancy and Mary Kay Battafarano has as well to fill one of the At Large positions. We still have President role and one At Large Rep to fill.

7. Discussed forming two committees:

Cycle Track Committee – to work with DOT to resolve outstanding and ongoing concerns with cycle track. Committee members as of this date are: Chris McSherry, Andrew Marani, Laura Grier, Mary Kay Battafarano, and Leslie Goldsmith. There may be some additional members added.

A gentleman from a nearby neighborhood spoke on behalf of his wife, Susan Gerlak, with regard to the cycle track. He said his wife commutes down Roland on a bike each day and feels that the cycle track is unsafe – particularly because of the daylighting areas. There was some discussion and we encouraged him to have her contact us or her representative directly.

Mary Kay Battafarano asked Chris if she had heard back from DOT on the measurements of the various lanes associated with the cycle track striping. Chris said she has tried several times to get someone out but she has not been successful so far. Mar Kay said that she had measured herself and that the striping is according to the plan but that they are including the width of the stripes (5 inches) themselves in the spaces. So that effectively takes 10

inches out of each space. Chris said she still wants to get DOT out to look at the parking space.

Landscape Committee – This will be a committee of the Community Foundation to work with K and C to advise on plantings for community shared spaces. Initial members will include Kathy Hudson, Jean Mellott, and Kathy Manson

8. Website Status – We are working on content at this point to show community the design and hopefully completed product at the May General Meeting. The platform is flexible and will be much easier to add to and to use.

Mary Kay Battafarano asked about RPCL minutes which are not consistently posted. In some cases we do not have a quorum to approve but it is certainly something that needs to be improved upon and every effort will be made to correct this.

9. Maintenance – Trudy Bartel reported that A&A will remove dead trees at end of Upland Path as soon as weather permits.

Andrew explained that our previous snow plow contractor had belatedly decided not to provide plowing for us this year so we had to scramble to get a new one at the last minute. At this point it looks like we will be using Davey Tree going forward. In general the plowing, although it took a while, was regarded as well done. Leslie Goldsmith described the difficulty that there always is in getting Hillside plowed. It is too steep for much of the city equipment.

Leslie Goldsmith also made board aware of an ongoing issue that they have on Hillside Road. There is a natural spring which causes constant running water across the road and freezing in the winter. It is very dangerous for cars to traverse. Chris and Andrew agreed to go out and look at it and if it is possible, to have K and C work on a plan to divert it away from the road.

10. Kathleen Truelove presented 3 potential new Reps for the Architectural Review but we were unable to vote due to lack of quorum. They are:

Mark Mobley for Plat 3, Melanie Harwood for Plat 5, and Gedge Rosson for Plat 1

The only outstanding issue before the Architectural Review Committee is Andrew Moore's application to build a two story-3 car garage at the back of his yard on University Parkway.

10. An issue was raised from the floor by Andrew Moore. He is concerned about the status of Roads and Maintenance and maintains that they are an HOA. Chris responded that R&M is not an HOA under the law. RPCL has sought legal advice on this on several occasions and it is clearly not an HOA. Mr Moore has also sought legal advice and feels that it is. He informed the board that he has filed a complaint with the Maryland Consumer Protection Agency, and believes they will be investigating.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.