

Minutes of Roland Park Civic League Annual Meeting
May 17, 2016 7-9:30PM

Board Attendees: Ian MacFarlane, Chris McSherry, Patti Ephraim, Laura Grier, Trish Carroll, Andrew Marani, Tim Schere, Leslee Bivalacqua, Jennifer Vey, Chris Cortright, Steve Grantz, Bob Connors, Elisabeth Sachs, Andrew Wolfe, Rob Horst, Anne Porterfield, Kathleen Truelove.

The meeting was well attended by approximately 200 residents.

1. Welcome, Introductions and Remarks by Guests

A. Senator Lisa Gladden, State Delegates Jill Carter and Nathaniel Oaks:Rep Oaks highlighted new legislation to provide State funding to: support Pratt Library branches being open 7 days a week, 12 hours a day, match federal funds for Pre-K, enhance infrastructure, with funds targeted to higher education, including support of \$4.5 million for Morgan State University to build a new student union, as well as recreation and parks.

B. Remarks by Mr. Nicholas D'Ambrosio, Principal, Roland Park Elementary/Middle School:Mr. D'Ambrosio thanked the community for their participation in fund raising and support throughout the year. RPEMS celebrated the 88th May Mart this Spring.

C. Strong City Baltimore Presentation by Karen Stokes, introduction by Dr. Phil Spevak: Ms. Stokes shared with the members that the Greater Homewood Corporation has changed its' name to Strong City Baltimore, to better reflect a desire to extend their mission to strengthen neighborhoods in Baltimore City. The organization serves as an intermediary between large organizations (e.g., Loyola University, Johns Hopkins University, etc.) and neighborhood/community organizations. Ms. Stokes highlighted an adult learning centers program that helps city residents with less than a 5th grade reading and math level to improve those skills and achieve their GED. Ms. Stokes encouraged us all to get involved and thanked Phil Spevak, a current board member, as a role model for the community.

2. Key Note Speaker – City Council President, Hon. Bernard C. “Jack” Young

presented an overview of zoning changes, “Transform Baltimore” to be finalized this year.

3. RP Fire Station Fire Fighters:There was discussion of the recent fire in the RP neighborhood. Investigation has not determined the cause of the fire, but it has been classified as “accidental.” Ongoing fire prevention efforts include: distribution of free smoke detectors and assistance installing them every Saturday throughout the city. Community members voiced appreciation for fire fighters shoveling fire hydrants out during the storm this winter. The need for a digital carbon monoxide detector in the basement of every home was mentioned. Finally, upon request the fire prevention unit will come out to do training for you and children in your home.

Note-The fire department has no official stance on the cycle track, but offered that the new configuration of parking on Roland Avenue has not affected their ability to perform duties.

4. Q & A with Baltimore City DOT: Caitlin Doolin (Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator), Kohl Fallin, Graham Young and Veronica McBeth. It was announced that RPCL has

recently formed a cycle track committee, They are meeting monthly to discuss further recommendations. Graham Young described the scope of the City's study to evaluate the cycle track. He projected the study to be completed within the next year.

During the question and answer session, concerns discussed included:

- A study of the road volume will capture not only use of the cycle track but also bicycle use of other areas, e.g., travel lanes. This type of count was not done prior to implementation of the cycle track by DoT.
- Residents identified obstructed views at intersections with bump outs.
- The DoT study will include measurement of speed on Roland Avenue.
- Residents asked Northern District Police data be consulted to identify if motorvehicle accidents on Roland Avenue have increased or not.
- Residents pointed out difficulty entering motorvehicles for those with a disability, both on the driver side as well as the passenger side, due to limited space and traffic. DoT is working with the ADA compliance officer to listen to feedback and factor that into the evaluation. The parking authority delineates ADA specific areas. Handicap spaces are being moved and still in process of mapping that out on the street.
- In addition to data collection, community input will also be solicited.
- This is the first protected cycle track in the City and data will inform future projects.
- Residents can send direct feedback by email to kohl.fallin@baltimorecity.gov.
- Residents of Roland Avenue asked that the DoT consider selective sampling of residents and proposed an on-line survey.
- Ticketing of residents not parked correctly will begin after construction ends in June, with an initial 2week grace period.
- The outcome identified for the DoT study is to improve safety and comfort of cyclists. DoT will work with the cycle track committee to define measures and metrics. There is baseline data that exists for crashes, volumes of traffic.
- Speeding enforcement is a police issue.
- There are several cycle track recommendations that will be discussed with DoT, including moving the cycle track in front of St. David's.
- When Signage is complete DoT study will begin, during Fall of 2016.
- Also remaining for project is crosswalk at Deepdene and landscaping
- Ms. McBeth offered to supply specific figures on cost overruns, mentioning federal funds were involved.

5. Minutes from 2015 Annual Meeting – Patti Ephraim, RPCL Secretary: presented a verbal review of minutes from meeting last year. *Approved.*

6. Financial Report – Trish Carroll, RPCL Treasurer: presented a verbal overview of the financial report for the past year, but was unable to project it for display. *Approved.*

7. Nominating Committee Report – Laura Grier, Chair

All nominees were *Approved* by vote of membership, without opposition.

President: Ian MacFarlane
First Vice President: Chris McSherry
Second Vice: Jennifer Vey
Secretary: Patti Ephraim
Treasurer: Tricia Carroll
Plat 3: Cara Kohler
At Large: Mary Kay Battafarano
At Large: Sara Johnson
At Large: Rob Horst
At Large: Anne Stuzin

8. Civic League Report – Chris McSherry, Outgoing President

The paving of Roland Avenue is almost complete and brick paving is being installed. In the Spring, the Board formed a committee to work with Roland Park Place to work out agreement for PUD amendment for new construction. The Board reviewed the Cross Keys renovation “face lift” and gave conditional approval pending review of proposed signage. The Board completed a redesign of the RP website. Community events that are upcoming include: Ciclovía this weekend and 4th of July parade.

9. Open Space Report – Mary Page Michel, President, Community Foundation

reviewed plans for restoration of Stony Run. On the RP Water Tower, the Bond bill from 2012 was extended to 2019. RP is the grantee rather Baltimore City. The group is meeting with City to speed along the activities. The Landscaping Committee has been reconvened, Kathy Hudson and Kathy Manson are leading that effort. In the Fall of 2016, Petit Louis & Johnny’s tentatively plan to host the annual benefit event. Hilary Paska, Editor of the *Roland Park News* was thanked. Funds raised thus far for the BCC purchase are at Brown Advisory; a request was made to post the amount raised on the RP website.

10. Maintenance Report – Trudy Bartel, Chair reported funds received this year were less than previous years. A \$12,000 expense was incurred to fix Hilltop Path when a tree destroyed it during a storm. Ms. Bartel thanked Ms. McSherry for her service as President of the League.

11. Architectural Review Committee Report – Kathleen Truelove, Chair: of the projects submitted for review, a total of 54 were approved and 4 rejected.

12. Broadband Initiative – Phil Spevak provided an update, citing lack of progress.

13. New Motion: Resident Paul Newhouse presented a motion to create a committee to amend RPCL by-laws. A counter motion was made to table and put to a vote. A vote of members was taken and the counter motion was approved 58 to 30 votes. Accordingly, this item will be placed on the agenda of the next RPCL Board meeting in June.

14. Questions/Answers: A request from the floor was made to hold a community meeting specific to the cycle track during the fall of 2016.