

ROLAND PARK CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING  
December 6, 2017

**RPCL Board Members Present:** Hap Cooper, Chris McSherry, Anne Stuzin, Mary Kay Battafarano, Andrew Wolfe, Chris Cortright, Tom Carlson, Cara Kohler, Steve Grantz, Blair Storzer, Tim Schere, Dan Motz, Robert Connors, Ian MacFarlane

Minutes

1. President's Introductory Comments
2. Police Report – Major Rich Gibson discussed the recent spate of car break-ins and strategies employed by the Northern District to catch criminals. Major Gibson recommended the use of Faraday cages because criminals are using range-enhancing devices and universal car remote-type devices to break into cars. Major Gibson answered two questions. First, he was asked how helpful footage is from cameras that face the street, including whether the police could identify criminals using that footage. He stated that it was helpful, because often criminals can be identified by characteristics that can be observed from the footage, even if it is a little blurry. He recommended that any neighbor who had relevant footage give it to the police in the event of a criminal investigation. Major Gibson also stated that communities are beginning to employ community victim impact statements in the sentencing phase of criminals. He was next asked a question about the trolley stop in Centennial Park, in which some people have been sleeping. He said that concerned neighbors can call the Northern District, which has a Homeless Outreach Team that can provide recommendations to shelters and other services. The Mayor's Office also has an outreach team.
3. No firefighters were in attendance.
4. Headlines:
  - a. Temporary Signs: Hap Cooper addressed the recent controversy over yard signs that developed following the publication of an article in the Roland Park News that discussed Baltimore City Zoning Code rules regarding yard signage and suggested residents be considerate and limit sign clutter. The issue was amplified by a Baltimore Sun article that wrongly suggested the Civic League was specific about message content of "banned" signs. Hap Cooper, representing the Civic League, subsequently issued public letter of apology on December 5th. Hap also discussed the racist history of Roland Park, including early restrictive covenants, which expired in 1933. He stated that the Board and our greater Roland Park community should be ever mindful of this past and, although the article in the newsletter was not meant to perpetuate that legacy, it was easy to see how someone might interpret things differently. There was a discussion that it was important to be mindful of the history, and to keep this in mind when weighing

future decisions. There were also suggestions from those in attendance that it would be important to welcome diversity on the Civic League Board and to invite representatives from other neighborhoods to address future meetings in order to better contextualize Roland Park within the City of Baltimore, which all agreed is important.

- b. Cycle Track: Following the November 2017 RPCL meeting, Hap Cooper, Anne Stuzin and Mary Kay Battafarano had a meeting with representatives of Bikemore, the Baltimore Bicycle Club and the Mayor’s Bicycle Advisory Commission. All agreed that the current design is not working, although there was not a consensus following that meeting on the appropriate remedial design. There is hope to continue working together to formulate a better design. Following that meeting, the group decided to ask the City to postpone the planned November 29 public meeting as proposed by DoT in order to continue working on design modifications. The RPCL representatives, local merchants (Nancy Cohen of Eddie’s and Harold Davidov of Tuxedo Pharmacy), St. David’s rector Scott Bellows and Day School head Lucy Zouk and representatives of the three bicycling-advocacy organizations have a meeting scheduled with the DoT next week. No followup public meeting has yet been scheduled.
- c. “Shop Local:” There was not a volunteer to head up the annual “shop local” event, so it will not occur.
- d. Open Positions on the RPCL Board: Patti Ephraim resigned as Secretary at the December meeting. Hap Cooper nominated At-Large Rep Blair Storzer to be Secretary, whose nomination was confirmed by the Board by voice vote. Following this appointment, there are openings on the Board for three At Large Representatives, (“C”, “D”, and “E”). Tom Carlson stated that there is also an opening for a Plat 2 Representative to the Roads and Maintenance Board. There was discussion that these openings should be publicized to the community through word of mouth and also through the E-letter. There was hope that the new members might bring some diversity to the Board.
- e. Status of Communications, Ethics & Compliance and Project Approval Process statements: There are complete drafts of each of these statements, which Board members will circulate in advance of the January meeting. We anticipate voting on them at the January meeting.

## 5. Routine Business

### a. Minutes

- i. September Minutes: Blair Storzer moved to approve the September minutes, which was seconded by Tim Schere and approved by the Board through voice vote.
- ii. October Minutes: Blair Storzer offered a clarification to be added to the draft October minutes, which had been circulated earlier amongst the Board. Mary Kay Battafarano moved to approve the October minutes,

which was seconded by Andrew Wolfe and approved by the Board through voice vote.

iii. November Minutes: A revised draft has been circulated amongst the Board and will be voted on at the January 3 meeting.

6. Committee Progress:

- a. Architectural Review: The Board received one application last month, from homeowners who are not under covenant but wanted the Board's advice. The Moores' appeal will be argued at the Court of Special Appeals on January 3. Tom Carlson and Chris McSherry plan to attend.
- b. Finance & budgeting: Trish Carroll was not in attendance, but had circulated the proposed budget to the Board. Finance Committee member Ian McFarlane said the books are in the best shape they have been in in a long time. The budget is balanced after a significant shortfall last year. There was brief discussion regarding the audit committee created in the revised Bylaws passed earlier this year.
- c. Maintenance: The contractor for organic debris pickup did a good job and we plan to renew the contract. The Community Foundation has donated new bike racks and Andrew Marani plans to install them in front of the library.

7. Other Business

- a. There was discussion of possible social events, or a social committee, to further encourage getting to know neighbors and inspiring positive community feeling. There was a favorable reaction, but no specific plans were made.