



Civic League Board Meeting
January 3, 2018

RPCL Board Members Present: Hap Cooper, Chris McSherry, Anne Stuzin, Mary Kay Battafarano, Andrew Wolfe, Chris Cortright, Tom Carlson, Steve Grantz, Blair Storzer, Claire McLaurin, Dan Motz

1. President's Introduction: Hap Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:06 and reviewed the meeting agenda.
2. Police and Firefighters Report
 - a. Captain Dave Magaha, from the Roland Avenue Fire House was in attendance. He reported that construction on the new roof for the fire house has started. It is estimated that construction will take 1.5 to 2 months. The Truck 25 move to Hampden and ambulance coming to the Roland Avenue station, which was discussed in 2017, will likely be occurring in March. There is a new state law, which became effective on January 1, 2018, requiring 10-year lithium batteries in smoke detectors in every home in the State of Maryland. If you call 311, the Fire Department can come and install a compliant smoke detector.
 - b. No police representatives were in attendance.
3. Headlines:
 - a. Vote on:
 - 1) **Communications Policy:** Mary Kay Battafarano reported on the work of the Communications Working Group and the draft policy that has been circulated. There is a recommendation from the group to work on compiling a centralized database of email addresses. The current list, maintained in the RPCL office, is based around addresses. We haven't made any progress in compiling this database. It is possible that a third-party site such as NextDoor, which is already pretty popular, could be a worthwhile alternative. In addition to the draft policy, there is a flowchart showing how information is currently disseminated as well as a Master Calendar. Discussion was that an RPCL-owned database would be best. There is a sign-up for the E-letter that is one source of email addresses, and including a request for email addresses in the annual bills is a good idea. Pursuing a campaign for email addresses is another alternative. The next step toward this goal is to review the various current sources of email addresses and analyze possible options for merging these. Steve Grantz volunteered to handle this in coordination Beth Hayes (RPCL's Office Manager).
 - Mary Kay Battafarano moved to approve the draft communications policy, which was seconded by Tom Carlson and unanimously passed by voice vote.
 - 2) **Ethics and Compliance Policy:** The policy is not yet ready. The committee is directed to circulate a draft for review by January 17, 2018, to be voted on at the February RPCL meeting.

- 3) **Project Approval Process:** Bob Connors had circulated a revised draft a couple of weeks ago. There was a request to specify major and minor projects in the policy during a discussion at a prior Civic League meeting. The committee had attempted to address this by defining major projects and noting that all other projects were minor. Chris McSherry will review the language in the proposed policy as it relates to variances. The committee is likewise directed to circulate a draft for review by January 17, 2018, to be voted on at the February RPCL meeting.
- b. **Request for RPBL sponsorship:** Andrew Wolfe gave a brief history of the Roland Park Baseball League. Mr. Wolfe is the 44th Commissioner of the RPBL. In the past, the Civic League has sponsored a team. The sponsorship cost is \$500. Mr. Wolfe requested that the Civic League again sponsor a team. There was a question as to whether this was built into the budget, since no one from the Finance Committee, nor the Treasurer was in attendance. Discussion was that this has been a longstanding expenditure, and is either in the budget or should be worked into the budget.
- 1) Hap Cooper moved to approve the expenditure, which motion was seconded by Chris Cortright. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
- c. **Open Positions on the RPCL Board:** There are currently three open “At Large” spots. Anne-Baron Carneal, Ed Goodlander, Ashley Handwerk and Richard Bruno have all attended this evening to express interest in serving on the Board. There is also a vacancy for the Plat 2 Rep on the Roads & Maintenance Board.
- 1) Hap Cooper appointed:
- Richard Bruno to be At Large Rep. “C.”
 - Ashley Handwerk to be At Large Rep “D.”
 - Ann-Baron Carneal to be At Large Rep. “E.”
- 2) The nomination was seconded by Andrew Wolfe and the slate of candidates was unanimously approved by voice vote.
- d. **Nominating Committee kicks off 2018:** Anne Stuzin briefly discussed the Committee’s work. Hap Cooper appointed Ed Goodlander to the Committee.
- e. **Cycle Track Situation update:** On December 14th, Hap Cooper, Chris McSherry, Anne Stuzin, and Mary Kay Battafarano attended a meeting with Nancy Cohen of Eddie’s, Rev. Scott Bellows and Lucy Zouk of St. David’s, Liz Cornish and Jed Weeks of Bikemore, Jon Laria from the Mayor’s Bicycle Commission, Jeff Marks of the Baltimore Bicycling Club and representatives of the DoT including Graham Young, Michelle Pourciau and Nikia Mack. Robert Ginyard attended as a representative of Councilwoman Middleton’s office. At the meeting the DoT presented three photo posters of key blocks of Roland Avenue, including in front of the commercial block that includes Petit Louis, the Eddie’s block and the St. David’s block. The recommendations from the DoT for immediate fixes have not changed. The City’s plan in front of Eddie’s is to push the cars to the curb, route faster bike traffic around the cars and put slower bike traffic on the sidewalk. The City does not currently have a plan to change the lane/restore curbside parking in front of St. David’s or the Library. The City framed this as a two-stage solution, with the immediate fixes in 2018 and

subsequent planning for a possible Complete Street design in 2019 at the earliest. There is a plan to install speed cameras and some additional flexposts at certain intersections along Roland Avenue, although timing is TBD. The DoT has not rescheduled the public meeting yet. There was a discussion on how to reframe the discussion for success, including: considering a third-party facilitator, establishing a Roland Avenue committee and reframing the discussion around public safety.

4. Routine Business

- a. Minutes: Blair Storzer moved to approve the revised November and December Minutes that have been circulated. Mary Kay Battafarano seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Committee Progress, Plans, & Proposed Actions

- a. Architectural Review: The Moores' appeal was heard today by the Court of Special Appeals. Chris McSherry and representatives of Roads & Maintenance attended. Ms. McSherry gave a summary of the arguments presented at the hearing. We are now awaiting a decision by the court.
- b. Finance & budgeting: All is well.
- c. Events: We need a social chairman, as discussed at the December 2017 Meeting. Aaron Parker has volunteered to serve as social chairman.
- d. GRP Master Plan: The Committee had a meeting and identified areas from the Master Plan to work to implement. We are compiling a list and plan to have another meeting to discuss.
- e. Maintenance: None.
- f. Land Use/Zoning: 4620 Schenley has applied to subdivide into three lots. We received notice and have reached out to the President of the Evergreen Association to ascertain that group's position.
- g. Public Safety: None.
- h. Transportation/Infrastructure: Follow-up discussion of the pedestrian improvements on Falls Road to benefit Poly students. In November 2017, Mary Kay Battafarano and Blair Storzer attended a meeting on a proposed redesign. The plan is substantially similar to a plan proposed by the DoT in May 2016 that was never implemented. The plan is to construct a pedestrian area of refuge in front of the Dunkin Donuts. The current plan is to reduce Falls Road down to one lane from Cold Spring headed north to the area of the pedestrian refuge, and one lane south of Cold Spring from approximately the gas station to the crosswalk. A community member raised a concern about traffic back-up and was assured by DoT representatives that traffic modeling studies support feasibility. Other suggestions were discussed which will be considered by DoT, including landscaping of medians, reconfiguration of the school parking lot, and intersection changes. Additionally, a specific concern was discussed that 18-wheelers will not be able to make the turn into CVS to make their deliveries and will block the lane. He discussed the planned design with drivers and is trying to relay that information to the DoT.

6. Other business: None

7. Hap Cooper adjourned the meeting at 9:01.