

**ROLAND PARK CIVIC LEAGUE  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 7, 2018**

Board members present: Hap Cooper, Chris McSherry, Anne Stuzin, Mary Kay Battafarano, Trish Carroll, Chris Cortright, Dan Motz, Steve Grantz, Claire McLaurin, Cara Kohler, Andrew Wolfe, Tom Carlson, Ashley Handwerk, Richard Bruno, Ann-Baron Carneal

1. President's Introduction: Hap Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:07PM and reviewed the meeting agenda.
2. Police and Fire Department Report: no report/not present.
3. Headlines: a. Vote on: 1). *Ethics and Compliance Policy*: Cara Kohler reported that current draft is still being fine-tuned with the committee. There was some discussion initiated by Mary Kay Battafarano that the draft needs to be more practical in focus vs. legal. Mary Kay and Ashley Handwerk volunteered to help finalize the document with the committee so that it can be voted on at the March RPCL meeting.  
2). *Project Approval Process*: Bob Connors reported that language in the current draft is where it should be, however the group discussed need to incorporate some project examples and obtain clarification on variances. Tom Carlson made a motion to approve the document which was seconded by Cara Kohler and passed unanimously by the board.  
b. *Follow up on open positions on the RPCL Board*. Anne Stuzin reported that there are openings as follows prior to the board elections at the Annual Meeting in May: Plat 1 Rep, Plat 2 Rep, President and Treasurer.  
c. *Nominating Committee 2018 Update*: Chair Anne Stuzin reported that the committee will meet on February 14<sup>th</sup> for an initial discussion of board openings and possible candidates. d. *Cycle Track Update*: Hap Cooper led a long and vigorous group discussion of the January 23, 2018 letter from the Department of Transportation concerning upcoming recommendations to modify the current cycle track.

Each of DoT's short-term, mid-term and long-term changes were reviewed and discussed as follows:

**Short-Term:** 1. Installation of portable speed cameras southbound and northbound by April 1, 2018. 2. Signage in front of St. Davids Church permitting "curbside passenger loading" during specified hours to be installed by February 1, 2018. 3. Additional Traffic Enforcement Officer to be deployed by February 12, 2018 in the area of Roland Avenue at Deepdene Road during school drop-off and pick-up hours. Role will be to assist at student crossings, deter illegal/double parking.

Major discussion points:

- Question about whether speed cameras would be set at 25 mph with ticketing at 37 mph.
- While signage at St. David's is up, hours listed are not correct. Should really be all day curbside M-F and Sundays.
- Suggestion that additional traffic enforcement officer should also assist with monitoring around RPEMS area. Robert Ginyard of Councilwoman Middleton's office offered to follow up on this situation.

**Mid-Term:** 1. Implement measures of widening Roland Avenue parking lane by 12 inches and installing flex-posts at block ends to reinforce parking lanes. To be completed by late summer, 2018. 2. Parking on East side of Roland Avenue between Colorado Avenue and Deepdene Road will be returned to curbside, with an off-street cycle track being provided on wide sidewalk adjacent to the road. Design of modification completed by May 1, 2018; construction anticipated by August 1, 2018.

Major discussion points:

- General concern raised as to why Roland Park community request (at May, 2017 Annual Meeting) to restore curbside parking to all of Roland Avenue has gone ignored by DoT. Perception that DoT just doesn't care.
- Much group concern expressed about widening of parking lanes because travel lanes already too tight.
- Wider parking lane will make left side of cars even more vulnerable and dangerous.
- Nancy Cohen of Eddie's expressed disbelief as to how DoT will create an off-street cycle track. Told group that "nobody is riding on the sidewalk" due to liability issues and that DoT does not have her or Harold Davidov's permission to encroach on their privately-owned portion of the sidewalk (City owns only 8 feet in from curb).
- Point made about financial investment by the community (and the RPCF) for enhancements of the "Eddie's plaza"- cobblestone paving, granite curbs, tree maintenance. Concern expressed over what might happen to these elements in a sidewalk cycle track design.

**Long-Term:** 1. DoT will work with the community to plan a pilot road diet involving the use of temporary materials to test/assess the impacts of reducing Roland Avenue to one travel lane in both directions. Goal of road diet stated to slow vehicular speeds and provide increased comfort to people on bikes and people trying to park. Design/plan to be developed Spring 2018; implementation September, 2018. 2. Using data gathered from road diet test, continued engagement by DoT with the community to

evaluate cycle track design and modifications to improve the safety and comfort of anyone who uses Roland Avenue.

Major discussion points:

- Presence of Jon Laria of the Mayor's Bike Advisory Commission greatly enhanced discussion of the more complex long-term modifications to cycle track. Jon gave a brief overview based on his pro-biking perspective, and fielded questions from the group. He agrees that current CT design is not right, doesn't understand how travel lanes can be further narrowed without doing anything to slow traffic. His belief is that DoT does want to work with community to make the right modifications, which makes sense to pursue before starting over. Jon said road diet approach "may or may not be" the answer, and that DoT needs to explain how it will work, but thinks that the community needs "to be willing to meet DoT halfway" on alternative modifications. His opinion is that unless someone gets hurt the CT will remain the same.
- Concern over staff turnover at DoT as limiting responsiveness on proposed modifications and willingness to work with community.
- Points made about Roland Avenue cycle track being "the first" in the city, with expert opinion that mistakes and modifications are to be expected, as evident in other cities.
- Comment made that Roland Avenue is in fact not similar to others Baltimore because of its being narrower than established guidelines.
- Many in group viewed road diet as too radical and a dangerous change (i.e. speed won't be reduced if cars have one wider lane). Point raised about occurrence of an accident or disabled vehicle in a road diet and adverse effect it would have on traffic.
- Andrew Marani shared his personal time trials from Cold Spring Lane to Northern Parkway that indicate a difference of 5 minutes or less between peak and off peak traffic, with conclusion that we'd only have congestion 1 hour a day, 5 days per week during the 9 months of the school year.
- Jon Laria suggested community make a list for DoT of logistical questions on the proposed road diet design, ask that they prove to us that it works with data.
- Concern raised about exiting from side streets with a road diet. It's already hard enough with current situation, so how would it work at "block breaks?"
- Suggestion that RPCF pay for an independent designer to assist with next road design iteration due to city's lack of credibility to date. Andrew Marani mentioned the Alta firm (hired by the CL/CT committee) and Mary Kay Battafarano responded with a reminder of their recommendation being a comprehensive engineering study that should have been done in the first place (cost \$100k).

- Mary Kay Battafarano made a point about “moving beyond optics and opinions” in favor of pursuing best practices.
  - Kathy Manson of the RPCF Landscaping committee reminded the group that Roland Avenue is part of a historic neighborhood, and that any modifications need to take this into consideration. The notion of a “complete street” must also include making Roland Avenue aesthetics a priority.
4. Routine Business: a. Minutes: January 2018 Meeting Minutes were approved with two minor revisions (addition of Chris McSherry to list of meeting attendees and the fixing of a typo).
  5. Committee Progress, Plans, and Proposed Actions: No reports except for Finance Committee. Trish Carroll reported that 2018 budget is currently on track. She also noted that dues and fees are down compared to February 2017, and that the RP Office sent out 600 reminders to delinquent residents last week.
  6. Other business: a. *Citizens Police Academy*: Chris Cortright reported on an event presented by the Baltimore Police Department, the Citizens Police Academy. This will take place March 6- May 22 from 5:30-9:00PM at the Baltimore Police Training Academy (3500 W. Northern Pkwy). The program will help Baltimore City residents learn more about various aspects of law enforcement. Interested citizens can contact the Community Engagement Unit at 443-984-7411. b. *Overlook development*: Hap Cooper reported that the hearing was this week, with final ruling to come in March.

Hap Cooper adjourned the meeting at 8:46PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Stuzin