



## ROLAND PARK

Roland Park Civic League Board Meeting

via Zoom April 7, 2021

7:00pm

Board Members Present: Martha Holleman, Ken Rice, Jen Viglucchi, Richard Bruno, Bobby Marinelli, Bob Connors, Rachel Dawson, Mary Kay Battafarano, Ed Goodlander, Andy Niazy, Devon Dodson, Daniel Motz.  
Not present: Blair Storzer, Tom Hoen, John Morell.

### 1. Routine Business

- a. President's Opening Remarks
- b. March draft minutes for approval: Approved.

### 2. New Business

- a. Roland Water Tower pocket park design proposals: Claire Agre, Unknown Studio, Landscape Architecture Firm shared some of the work they are doing. Her team's focus on the park design is separate from tower work itself; both are on schedule. She gave some history of the tower from inception to today. Her team has held two opportunities for community engagement -- a few zoom meetings and a survey (400 respondents). Among the many takeaways was participants' desire for green space, a safe space for birds, a safe park for children and adults, and a place that has flexible use.
- b. Link to Public Survey: <https://tinyurl.com/RWTPark>
- c. Link to a recording of the public zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/RWTPark>
- d. The two options they are considering for the design (see above link for details):
  - i. Option 1: Minimalist
  - ii. Option 2: The Gathering Place (Olmsted design principles)
- e. Robert Ginyard from the office of City Council member Sharon Green Middleton reported that an iron bench that was removed from the west side of Roland Avenue at Upland Road, and a second is missing from the west side of Roland at Beechdale Road. They were likely stolen because he learned they were not removed by DOT. They are investigating. He mentioned that another issue involving the contractor of a house renovation in the neighborhood is being handled. He reminded us that folks from his office are out on the road and in the community, trying to handle all issues they can.
- f. Captain Shorter, North District Executive Officer -
  - i. Captain Shorter has begun to get in touch with constituents. According to data for 2021 YTD compared to 2020, most crime is down. His contact information: [Jeffrey.shorter@baltimorepolice.org](mailto:Jeffrey.shorter@baltimorepolice.org)

- ii. A question from a member: Cars traveling at high speeds on Jones Falls Expressway seems worse since COVID. There also seem to be loud trucks on Falls Road and on Roland Avenue. Can the police do anything about it? He answered that they are aware of it and are working on it.
- g. Lieutenant Carter-Bey - Administrator of Northern District, introduced himself and shared his contact information: [Desmond.Carter-Bey@BaltimorePolice.Org](mailto:Desmond.Carter-Bey@BaltimorePolice.Org)
- h. Gina Clay - Northern District Community Liaison with the States Attorney's Office, shared that jury trials will resume April 26th. Also, the 2020 State's Attorney's Office report is out for public review. She wanted us to know about the "You're Not Alone Campaign" that assists victims and witnesses of domestic violence. Reporting of incidents can be made anonymously: 1-877-SAO-4TIP/ She encouraged all to let her know if you have any questions. Her contact information: [gclay@stattorney.org](mailto:gclay@stattorney.org) 443-263-8120
- i. Review of community poll re: Claiborne and Northern Parkway/Falls Rd corridor DOT proposal - Mary Kay Battafarano shared results of the poll of 89 participants. Poll results can be viewed on the Civic League website on the announcement for tonight's meeting.
  - i. Bob Connors then shared about the executive committee meeting and hopes that the community can come to a consensus about the development. Devon Dodson, who lives on Merrymount, volunteered to be involved to keep folks informed about the Claiborne development.
  - ii. DOT - Follow links on the website to learn about the proposals. The survey indicated that respondents want the Civic League to stay engaged to ensure that it meets criteria for road diet and its ramifications. The hope is to stay engaged and keep tabs on whether and what gets approved.
    - 1. A question from a member: Is there a way to leverage Claiborne to get involved in the Northern Parkway/Falls Rd changes proposed? The answer: the City's Planning and Transportation Departments will specify requirements.
    - 2. Another question: Does the road diet allow folks to park on Falls Rd near the Hillside Park area? Answer: The actual design is undetermined due to many factors.
- j. Finance Committee analysis of organic debris and fees: Jen Viglucci, Treasurer, shared history of fees for Roads and Maintenance. The fee structures have not been adjusted in the past 36 years and are out of date. She then reviewed what services the fees cover and reminded that the main goal for the fees is that all residents benefit from the full funded service fee. She indicated that many residents are confused about which fee to pay, whether the Basic (required) or Full (recommended). Only 50% pay the Full fee. She went on to share percentages and usage of the organic debris service, outlining the pros and cons of keeping the organic debris service. Information is available on the Civic League website. We will continue to review and discuss whether or not to end the organic debris pick up at next month's annual meeting.

- i. Bob Connors - Roads and Maintenance fees are used to maintain public areas of the neighborhood, its medians, parks, etc. The fiduciarly responsible action would be for the board to take a look at the fee structure to see if it makes sense to eliminate this program.
  - ii. The following formal motion was put forth and approved: “The Finance Committee has presented a compelling case to this Board that the organic debris program as it currently exists is not financially sustainable and thus moves that the program will be put on hold pending further review by the Board for the coming fiscal year beginning May 1, 2021.”
- k. Strong Schools Maryland: Martha Holleman - The Maryland 2021 Legislative session ends with historic support for increasing equity and improving outcomes in Maryland's public schools. The legislature overrode Governor Hogan's 2020 veto of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future/ Kirwan Commission legislation in February and in March passed companion legislation, the Blueprint 2.0, which modifies implementation timelines, updates funding allocations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, establishes guidelines for use of federal funds, and strengthens the language of the Blueprint. It also eliminates SY20-21 enrollment data from funding formula calculations to account for unusual enrollment during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- l. The Civic League Annual Meeting is May 19, 2021 via Zoom from 7-9pm. There will be no speaker this year.

### 3. Committee Reports

- a. Architectural Review: Bob Connors, on behalf of John Morrel, shared that the lighting issue at Petit Louis and Bank of America is still ongoing.
- b. Finance: Jen Viglucci - see above.
- c. GRP Master Plan: Martha Holleman- They are working on a report back to the board based on data they have collected.
- d. Maintenance: Andrew Marani - (\*\*I had to respond to a work text so missed most of this). Andrew reported on tree issues along the Northern section of Falls Rd Terrace. His spending is slightly over budget due to the amount of snow we had this winter.
- e. Land Use/Zoning: Andy Niazy - He received an email outlining new elevations for the Claiborne Development that he will send around later.
- f. Traffic and Transportation: Devon Dodson, shared that we should get a report together for next month's annual meeting.
- g. Landscape committee of RPCF: Kathy Hudson -
  - i. She's been in touch with Eddie's on possible landscape alterations that will come with the redo of the store. They plan some replanting at Wells Fargo. They are also in discussions about filling the built-in planters along the Deepdene Rd garage under M&T bank.
  - ii. The missing benches were noticed by a local walker and put on Nextdoor.

iii. They hope to get to Falls Rd Terrace to do some planting but don't want to plant many immature trees because the cicadas like to eat immature trees.

4. Adjourn at 9:15pm

“The Roland Park Civic League is a civic governing body that addresses matters affecting the interests of residents. Its purpose is to foster the common good and welfare of its members, to take action on those matters of mutual interest, and to otherwise represent the people of Roland Park.”