



Minutes of Civic League Monthly Board Meeting (Approved)

Wednesday- July 7, 2021, online via Zoom (recorded).

In Attendance: Claudia Diamond, Patricia Carroll, David Blumberg, Tom Hoen, Ed Goodlander, Ken Rice, Bobby Marinelli, Anne Barron Carneal, Steve Ralston, Margaret Black, Mary Kay Battafarano, Rachel Dawson. Absent: Richard Bruno, Devon Dodson, Tom Dolina, Martha Holleman, Andy Niazy, Rita Walters. Other recognized Zoom participants: Ed Gunts (media), Robert Ginyard, Odette Ramos, Kathy Hudson.

1. Routine Business

- a. President Claudia Diamond called the meeting to order at 7:10pm, quorum established.
- b. June Minutes circulated and revised were **Approved**.
- c. A virtual hearing on the proposed Claiborne development (behind high rise apartments on No. Parkway east of Falls) is scheduled by City Planning for July 13th. Claudia contacted Merrymount residents directly in writing following last month's meeting to provide each the contacts within nearby neighboring associations taking the lead with the developer MOU.
- d. A letter notifying Organic Debris program participants of the suspension, our task force and options going forward is in draft form, it will be circulated later this month.

2. New Business

In our Community: Claudia announced her daughter's engagement to be married; then introduced the following guests in attendance:

- Darnyle Wharton, a new hire in the State Attorney's Office (SAO) for the Northern District invites us to contact him by email or phone (dwharton@stateattorney.org; 410-746-0167) on issues of public safety. He's also available to attend community events.
- Carter Ruffin, State Senator Jill Carter's Office (41st District) Summer Intern (carter@senatorjpc.com) introduced himself and encouraged us to contact their office for assistance with state level issues.
- Sheena Ham, Director Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore (website: nhsbaltimore.org or genengagement@gmail.com) invited us to become involved with their independent nonprofit and to share news of their services available to support homeownership in the city.

- a. Treasurer, Patricia Carroll presented 2021-22 draft budgets for Civic League and R&M circulated today. Initial discussion concluded without a vote to approve; deferring to September allowing for a full review and further questions in the interim.
- b. Bylaws specify a committee responsible for performing an annual audit of RPCL finances. Two or more qualified volunteers are needed, excluding Finance Committee members. Please contact any Officer to volunteer or recommend a neighbor.
- c. New Neighbor Welcome Packets- Anne Barron Carneal advised of her continued effort to provide a welcome letter with local materials in bags for Plat Reps to deliver in person to new residents. In collaboration with the Community Foundation, new additions to be included are an updated list of recommended contractors and neighborly best practices.
- d. Two Plat 1 gatherings are scheduled for September 12th and 19th. Each Plat has been asked to host a 1-2 hour outdoor gathering in early fall as part of citywide “reopening” and listening to local concerns. Beverage expenses will be covered by the League, Claudia plans to attend and speak at as many of these as possible.
- e. In September, our monthly board meetings will return to Roland Park Presbyterian, 4801 Roland and Upland in the basement hall. Mask use may be required initially due to youth members not yet vaccinated. Bobby Marinelli is leading an effort to logistically create a hybrid environment so attendance online may continue as an option going forward. Community member, Tony Foreman has agreed to briefly share Foreman Wolf restaurants’ experience surviving the pandemic and plans for the future.
- f. A Task Force has been formed recently amongst Directors and Officers to examine our governance structure specific to annual maintenance fees which do not cover current expenses adequately. The goal is to present recommendation/s to membership at the Annual Meeting in May, 2022. Tom Hoen is chair, please contact him directly with related questions or concerns.
- g. Support for funding of the Falls Road and Northern Parkway Transportation Study recommendations is now key as the City Department of Transportation (DOT) capital budget for 2022 is being finalized. Nearby neighborhood associations are looking to prioritize the recommended improvements and invited RPCL to participate. The consultants “strongly recommended that the improvements move together as a package, which our Transportation Committee has advocated for to date.
- h. Flooding events occurred throughout Roland Park in recent storms, some due to clogged public storm drains. Residents are reminded to both: report to the city using the 311 system and clear debris from storm drains near our homes. Claudia has also

established a shared spreadsheet with photos to track locations for use with city officials. Specifically, the intersections of Wyndhurst and Gladstone at Roland Avenue continue to experience standing storm water exceeding curb height regularly-last week this was reported via 311 and brought to Councilwoman Middleton's attention who forwarded the matter to DPW for action.

i. Reflecting on our history and looking outward are new opportunities identified by our Committee reviewing the ten-year progress of 2011's Greater Roland Park Master Plan (GRPMP). Accordingly, Dr. Paige Glotzer was contacted and agreed to serve as a guest speaker before the Covid-19 pandemic occurred. Instead, she will kick off a new speaker series to begin this October. The series will be held in collaboration with the local public library branch, who have offered their community room.

3. No Committee Reports were presented, other than in business items, above.

4. **Odette Ramos, City Councilwoman District 14** (below Cold Spring) shared local news:

- City bag ban has been extended until October 1, 2021; reusable shopping bags are being collected for those without at the Saturday Waverly Farmers Market.
- Virtual Postal Service Town Hall July 14, 2021 at 5PM; sign-in details to follow.
- Due to requests from adjacent neighborhoods, expect flex posts to be added on Keswick near the Rotunda and more traffic calming on University Parkway. Kathy Hudson volunteered to participate in planning on design issues.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.