



Minutes of Civic League Monthly Board Meeting (APPROVED)

Wednesday September 8, 2021

Hybrid: available on Zoom and in person at 4801 Roland Avenue

In Attendance: Claudia Diamond, David Blumberg, Ed Goodlander, Steve Ralston, Mary Kay Battafarano, Martha Holleman, Andy Niazy. Via Zoom: Patricia Carroll, Bobby Marinelli, Anne Barron Carneal. Absent: Ken Rice, Richard Bruno, Rachel Dawson, Margaret Black, Tom Hoen, Rita Walters.

1. Routine Business

a. President Claudia Diamond called the meeting to order at 7:05PM, once a quorum was established. Claudia introduced our guest speaker by sharing the mission statement of Foreman Wolf.

Guest Speaker: Tony Foreman shared his perspective on the restaurant industry in Baltimore surviving uncertainty during the pandemic. He credited local neighbors for showing up and expressed gratitude for our support.

b. July Minutes circulated and revised were **Approved**.

c. Our September Socials schedule was reviewed, which led to recognizing a need for talking points to encourage involvement and a way to gather attendees contact details. Steve Ralston plans to generate a QR code for this purpose and will circulate that to all.

d. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) efforts begun in early 2020 will be revisited by the Board. Consensus tonight was to arrange a return visit soon by Todd Wade a local expert who facilitates *Courageous Conversations about Race*. Also our next invited speaker on October 13th, author Paige Glotzer will share insights on Baltimore's history of exclusionary practices in residential housing history fostered by developers including the Roland Park Company.

e. Several Plat Rep. vacancies have arisen in the last month, with the resignations of Tom Dolina and Devon Dodson. Ed Goodlander will lead the effort of vetting volunteers for these openings.

f. Patricia Carroll, Treasurer advised that our budget was approved unanimously by email since our July meeting. Also, budgets to actual are on track for both Civic League and Roads & Maintenance.

g. New neighbor welcome packets continue to be distributed by Ann Barron Carneal and Claudia.

h. Our state delegation for the 41st district have requested to attend our October meeting.

2. New Business

Mary Kay reported the top candidate for Office Manager will conclude introductory meetings with key officers this week. A job offer will be made, dependent upon a successful background check. September 20th is the anticipated start date.

- a. In our Community: Claudia announced the winner of Roland Park Pool's end of summer grill contest. Several directors shared fond memories of Jim Case, a long-standing resident of Cold Spring Lane whose obituary was released today.
- b. Fall Blitz-Cold Spring Lane sidewalks from Roland Ave. to Falls Road have long been impassable due to overgrowth, discussed several times here in the last 3 years. A motion was made and **Approved** to hire a contractor to clean this area, at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.
- c. Community giving options for November-December were discussed, but no conclusions were reached.

3. Committees

- a. Landscape Committee of Community Foundation: in Kathy Hudson's absence, Claudia read her update.
- b. Land Use and Zoning-Claiborne's variance application was approved by City Planning, with an appeal pending
- c. Miscellaneous-Bobby Marinelli shared that the 21st Century Schools program has recently begun meetings at Poly-Western indicating major campus changes are now being planned to be completed in 4-5 years. Expect public sessions soon.
- d. Speaker Series-suggestions were provided for future invites including Walter Schamu of Baltimore Architectural Foundation and an Eddie's representative to update us on the renovations un

4. **Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.