

Minutes of Roland Park Civic League Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 2, 2022-Held online via Zoom, only

Attending: Claudia Diamond, Ed Goodlander, Mary Kay Battafarano, David Blumberg, Ken Rice, Bobby Marinelli, David Fitzpatrick, Raman Tallamraju, Ann-Barron Carneal, John Morrel, Rachel Dawson, Steven Ralston, Alisya Davis and Rita Walters. Absent: Tom Hoen, Patricia Carroll, Margaret Black, Andy Niazy and Martha Holleman.

Claudia called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and introduced invited guests: Becky Roman of MD Historic Trust (MHT), Brooks Thacker of Trileaf Consultants and Paul Plymouth of Verizon.

1. Old Business-5G Update

Becky Roman started off by explaining her role as a resource advocate for our historic district (HD) and that of MHT, as the designated state historic preservation office (SHPO) charged with facilitating the Section 106 review including the goal of minimizing adverse effects to historic properties. Becky added that she in her MHT role may at times serve as a mediator between parties involved in this review process. She advised that we as a civic league are considered a “consulting party” on Verizon’s pending submission for a 5G installation at Club and Upland Roads (a/k/a 198 Club, Loyola 55) and as such are eligible to acquire an online log-in to the e-106 system utilized to track developments and submit comments. Others that may qualify as consulting parties include property owners, Baltimore City CHAP and the City Council District representative. Finally, Becky clarified that the 106 process does not stop projects but may adjust the locations with engineering input. Because of changing FCC regulations under different Presidential administrations, there will be no retrospective reviews of sites already installed.

Brooks Thacker, Trileaf Consultants (Towson office) agreed after a robust discussion that “bundling” submissions in Roland Park is preferable and will recommend it. He has not yet seen the full list of Verizon locations planned, but will obtain a map tomorrow and anticipates splitting the locations in half or groups of 5 depending on the build plan. Brooks responded to several questions about public notice, explaining that ads in local newspapers are used in addition to signage on poles and letters to known neighborhood associations. Comments are typically due within 30 days, but will be accepted at any time.

Paul Plymouth of Verizon added there may be other stipulations involved and that when mounting 5G nodes on utility poles there is greater leniency than with street light poles.

Those present tonight shared observations that subcontractors have installed poles 3 feet higher than those replaced and performed tree trimming recently; and that two sites not on Verizon’s list are at the intersections of Kenwood/Ridgewood and Woodlawn/Upland Roads. Next Steps include: Claudia attending a follow-up call with tonight’s three invited guests, written comments submitted to Becky after tonight which may include our Community Impact Assessment, and additional meetings that can occur if warranted.

2. Routine Business

- a. A motion to approve the 5G Community Impact Assessment (CIA) was APPROVED. Claudia will forward this CIA to city officials tomorrow.
- b. A motion to approve December draft Minutes was APPROVED.
- c. In our Community
 - Claudia informed us that former MD Attorney General, Stephen Sachs passed within the last month, offering condolences to his wife Sheila and daughter Elizabeth.
 - Local resident author Anne Tyler has a new book published, *French Braid*.
 - The firehouse holiday meals went smoothly, thanks to Steve Ralston. The recent tragic loss of 3 City firefighters' lives on duty was acknowledged.
- d. Speaker Series update-these are monthly and in person at RP Enoch Pratt Library at 6:30pm. March 3rd is Dana Moore, Baltimore City Chief Equity Officer; April is Ethan Abbott, Baltimore Greenway Trails Network; and May is State Delegate Tony Bridges. Please RSVP to 410-396-6059.
- e. March 2nd is our next regular meeting. Marilyn Mosby's office has requested she speak to us then. Our practice is to accommodate all incumbent officials and candidates upon request.
- f. Our annual membership meeting takes place in May when elections of Officers and Plat reps occur. The Nominating Committee chaired by Ed Goodlander, 2nd VP will be formed soon for that purpose. Claudia requested any Directors or Officers unable to continue serving beyond this year to please inform her directly as soon as possible. We have 2 vacancies to date: Secretary and Plat 1 rep.

3. New Business

- Laurence Cotton of Olmsted200.org is an author who has agreed to speak to our community on Thursday May 25, 2022 courtesy of Rachel Dawson. It was suggested we consider combining this with our Annual Meeting.
- JHU Professor Lawrence Jackson is a Homeland neighbor and author of a newly published memoir, Shelter. He will be featured at a book event the evening of May 11th to include a Tom Hall interview at Redeemer Church, 5603 N. Charles St. We are a co-sponsor along with the Guilford & Homeland Associations.
- Claudia and Erin have drafted a brochure for new neighbors to introduce our three inter-related organizations. New At-Large Plat reps. are asked to serve as a focus group in the next few weeks to provide feedback, after which Claudia will present the brochure next month.
- 4th of July Parade-need volunteer lead/s; a permit application is due in April.
- The Woman's Club is holding an Egg roll event Sat, April 9th; Ann Barron Carneal announced leftover plastic eggs from our 2018-19 hunts will be donated to the Club as a show of support

4. Committee Reports

- Transportation-Mary Kay reported meetings underway to address lack of city funding for the Northern Parkway/Falls Rd. study recommendations.
- Community Foundation- Mary Page Michel reported on the Water Tower and Hillside Park projects. 6M in fundraising continues: 2M each for purchase, park build out and maintenance endowment. They are working on plans for the return of the annual spring event this year.
- Foundation Landscape Committee-Kathy Hudson announced 100 Trees will be planted this spring!

The meeting concluded at 8:50pm.