



Civic League Board Meeting March 7, 2018  
North Baltimore Mennonite Church 7-9 PM

Board Members in Attendance: Hap Cooper, Anne Stuzin, Tom Carlson, Cara Shea Kohler, Blair Storzer, Mary Kay Battafarano, Bob Connors, Chris Cortwright, Ashley Handwerk, Clare McLaurin, Ann-Baron Carneal.

1. President's Introduction

- a. Hap Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:07.
- b. Lori Ulloa, new editor of the Roland Park News, introduced herself.

2. Police and Firefighters Report

- a. Joel Heiss, formerly of the tactical section within the Baltimore City Police Department (BCPD) was promoted to Captain of the Northern District on February 9<sup>th</sup>. He is a 20-year veteran of BCPD and has been a Lieutenant since 2008. Captain Heiss spoke to the importance of community engagement and feedback. Total crime for 2018 year to date is down over last year. So far this year, there has been 1 "serious" incident, although Captain Heiss did not have specifics on that incident. Property crime is down as well. Commissioner D'Souza has changed the way policing is done. In the past there was more of a focus on making arrests. There is an enhanced emphasis now on police visibility on the streets and in businesses. BCPD is going to continue to send patrols into our neighborhood to try to protect against property crimes. Goal is to reduce crime 30% district-wide. The major focus is the York Road-Greenmount corridor. So far this year things are going very well.
- b. The issue of repeated car break-ins was raised. This is a known, ongoing issue within RP. Captain Heiss is aware of the problem.
- c. There was a question about video cameras installed on peoples' properties. How useful is this footage? It is very useful. Police officers are able to, and do, use the footage to solve crimes.
- d. Captain Heiss's email address is: [joel.heiss@baltimorepolice.org](mailto:joel.heiss@baltimorepolice.org). Neighbors are encouraged to reach out with comments or concerns.

3. Headlines:

- a. Carmel Roques, CEO, and Maria Darby, VP Communications from Keswick Multi-Care Center presented changes that are ongoing at Keswick. Ms. Roques spoke of her desire to position Keswick as a good neighbor by becoming a community health resource. Keswick's focus is on chronic disease prevention and management for older adults. For two years or so, Keswick has been offering chronic disease prevention and management classes. That piece of the work Keswick has been doing has been going on on campus at Keswick and at other Keswick-affiliated locations within the community, including through senior centers. The Berenschmitt building, on Keswick's campus, is going to be renovated for offices (from patient rooms, which are now used from offices but which have not been previously retrofit). This will not affect the outside of the building. The renovation is expected to

include dedicated space for the community health offerings. The art studio is expected to be expanded. There will be a grand opening in September.

- b. Kathy Hudson & Kathy Manson of the Roland Park Community Foundation Landscape Committee attended and presented a brief history of their group's community involvement and investment in enhancing the historic landscape design of Roland Park. They stated that "the Landscape Committee would like to review each iteration of design development plans as they are introduced" related to the "Future Design Plans for Roland Avenue."
  - The Committee was asked for an update on the health of the zelkova trees as related to a tree hit by a car a few months ago and a tree that was destroyed in the storm last Friday.
  - Hap Cooper thanked the Landscape Committee for their work and said that the Civic League would keep them in the loop.
- c. Mary Page Michel from the Roland Park Foundation spoke and stated that the Stony Run Master Plan was accepted by the City on February 1, 2018.
- d. Update on Overlook—Request for Judicial Review. The two cases, those filed by Hunter Cochrane and that to which the Civic League has joined request went in front of Judge Fletcher-Hill in early February. The judge has different options as to what to do.
- e. Vote on Ethics and Compliance Policy. Ashley Handwerk and Mary Kay Battafarano briefly reviewed the draft ethics policies that had previously been circulated. Cara Kohler moved to adopt the policy, seconded by Chris Cortwright, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
  - Tom Carlson asked whether current Board Members would need to sign the forms immediately.
    - Discussion was that the Secretary is charged with collecting forms from Board Members and Committee Members. Following additional discussion it was decided that the Secretary would be charged with collecting the forms following the Annual Meeting, and election of new Board Members.
- f. Activation of online accident reporting. Mary Kay Battafarano presented that Hap Cooper had asked her to create a means of reporting accidents along Roland Avenue. The purpose is to collect data from past and current accidents. The goal is to have data to present to DoT regarding ongoing conversations about Roland Avenue. The speed cameras have been installed along Roland Avenue at St. John's.
- g. Open Board Positions/Nominating Committee 2018 Update: Anne Stuzin presented an update on the Nominating Committee. The Committee has met twice. The Committee includes: Anne Stuzin, Cara Kohler, Kathy Hudson, Ed Goodlander, and Mary Page Michel. The slate includes nominees for the anticipated vacancies in Plat 1, Plate 2, and Treasurer. The Committee continues to search for a President.
  - The RPCL is considering May 16 for the Annual Meeting.

- h. Cycle Track: Discuss RPCL response to the DOT letter and next steps.
  - On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, we received a letter from DoT. Late this afternoon we received notice of a public meeting by DoT to be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> at RPEMS from 6:00-8:00 pm. We do not know what their agenda is. We have to decide how we want to respond and proceed. There was discussion about how to proceed.
    - With regard to the letter sent last month, the City did not add a third traffic officer at Roland Avenue and Deepdene as promised. Anne Stuzin emailed Graham Young two weeks ago and has not received a response.
- 4. Routine Business
  - a. Minutes – Anne Stuzin presented the Minutes from the February meeting.
    - Tom Carlson moved to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Cara Shea Kohler. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.
- 5. Committee Progress, Plans, & Proposed Actions
  - a. Architectural Review – Tom Carlson presented the report and said that nothing is ongoing. We will hear from our lawyers when they have an updated about the appeal.
  - b. Finance & budgeting – Cara Shea Kohler presented the report. The committee met last week and approved budgets for RPCL and RPR&M.
  - c. Events – Mary Page Michel presented the report. The Foundation’s Spring Celebration will be held on April 20<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 10:00 at the WCRP. There are more than a dozen confirmed sponsors for the event, including Eddie’s.
  - d. Social – Aaron Parker presented the report of the social committee. Ann-Baron Carneal is hoping to resuscitate a welcome wagon for new residents. There is an idea for a walking tour with wine for residents in order to get to know each other.
  - e. GRP Master Plan — Bob Connors presented the report of the committee. We have been going through the plan, and we are identifying issues. We have another meeting scheduled for the end of this month. Our goal is to have bullet points of our progress to present at the Annual Meeting if there is enough time.
  - f. Transportation/Infrastructure – Chris Cortright stated that in Plat 5 City, BGE has been replacing infrastructure since last fall. This is an ongoing project.
- 6. Hap Cooper adjourned the meeting at 9:02.