

Civic League Board Meeting

Roland Park Presbyterian Church
4801 Roland Avenue (enter on Upland-Accessible ramp)

September 5, 2018
7:00-9:00PM

Attendance: Hap Cooper, Ashley Handwerk, Richard Bruno, Blair Storzer, Ed Goodlander, Dan Motz, Chris Cortright, Bob Connors, Kristin Herber, Steve Grantz, Tom Carlson, Chris McSherry, Mary Kay Battafarano, Cara Shea Kohler, Dan McIntyre, Ann-Barron Carneal

1. Routine Business

- a) President Bob Connors called the meeting to order at 7:05.
- b) State senator and delegate intros: Dalya Attar, Democratic Candidate for State Delegate and Delegate Sandy Rosenberg were in attendance. Ms. Attar and Representative Rosenberg introduced themselves. Delegate Rosenberg discussed the Kirwyn Commission, which is focusing on state aid to public schools and will affect Baltimore City schools including RPEMS. Delegate Rosenberg also discussed ongoing efforts with the City of Baltimore to move forward on funding for the water tower project. The design is likely to begin in October. Drew Pate who is a Green Party candidate in the 41st District also introduced himself and discussed his campaign.
- c) Police/Fire Updates
 1. Police Department Captain Joel Heiss of the Northern District was in attendance.
 2. Fire Department Sergeant Carl T. Mallory of the Baltimore Fire Department was in attendance. He announced that the roof of the Fire House is coming to completion.
- d) Draft minutes for approval: Blair Storzer moved that the previously circulated July 2018 meeting minutes as revised be approved, which motion was seconded by Richard Bruno and passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. New Business

- a) New RPEMS Principal Amanda Brown: Principal Brown introduced the current fundraiser for the school is runners who will be participating in the Baltimore Running Festival. The money raised by the fundraiser will go to the construction of an amphitheater and outdoor classroom at RPEMS. The goal is to raise \$75,000.
- b) Roland Park Baseball League: Andrew Wolfe, 44th Commissioner of the Roland Park Baseball League attended and presented a plaque to the Civic League in recognition of the Civic League's sponsorship of a team this year.
- c) Roland Avenue Update: Curbside parking has been restored in front of the Eddie's block. There has been a delay in getting the sidewalk bike lane in place, but that should be done in the next two weeks. As far as the St. David's block and Women's Club block, there has been a delay because a formal design needs to be put in place. But these should be done by the end of October. The speed cameras

have worked well in the Eddie's block. There is hope to obtain additional cameras near St. David's, but there is an open question at this time as to how many speed cameras may be located on one block. The next meeting with the Baltimore DOT (which is expected to include Jon Laria, Bob Connors and Michelle Pourciau) is next Friday, September 14th. The expectation is that Baltimore DOT will provide a list of third parties who are potential experts. They have committed to a traffic study and a circulation study.

- d) DPW update on repair work including Meadow Lane: Mohammed Rahman of the DPW Leader of the Project Team for water utilities attended and presented an update on the Wickford Avenue sewer project. After looking at the main line, DPW found that some of the pipes were crushed and would need to be replaced. An "urgent needs" contractor attended and replaced parts of two pipes that had been crushed. The third pipe is now being replaced and should be done by this Friday. The restoration in the lane behind Wickford is ongoing. The contractor who replaced the concrete with asphalt will return to the site and replace this with concrete.
 - 1. Councilwoman Mary Pat Clark was present to support residents and DPW in their efforts to improve communications and in regard to the Wickford Alley drainage problem. Plat 4 Representative Chris Cortright thanked Councilwoman Clark for her efforts to retain 5 police officers within the JHU Homewood and Charles Village areas in response to a City Council plan to move the officers elsewhere.
 - 2. There is also ongoing maintenance within Roland Park. Mr. Rahman also provided a list of the root control efforts that have been undertaken on Wickford. He also provided a map of planned sewer replacements and CIPP linings in Roland Park.
 - 3. The DPW's community liaison is: Germaine Bradshaw.
- e) Alonso's MOU update: There is a meeting scheduled for the 10th to discuss the proposed changes to the MOU. The meeting will be attended by Chris McSherry, leaders from Evergreen and Keswick Associations, Binod Uprety and his attorney and will be for the purpose of hammering out the details of the MOU.
- f) 1st annual Octoberfest? Social Committee needs volunteers: There is the idea to do a Halloween event with a costume parade. Anyone interested should reach out to Aaron Parker or Ann-Barron Carneal.
- g) Strategic Communication proposal: There has been ongoing concern with communications on behalf of the Civic League to the outside world as well as within the community. There has been discussion about hiring an outside expert to provide training to the Civic League through a communications initiative. The total package for 4-6 months of training is \$7,500. There is hope that the local businesses and the Civic League as well as the Foundation would find a way to split the cost. There were questions as to what the purpose of this expert would be and discussion about the perceived need for this, especially regarding the Civic League President's need to respond to media inquires and a recent experience being misquoted. There was discussion that these kinds of expenditures should be budgeted for in advance.

1. Dan McIntyre moved that the Board approve the expenditure of up to \$2,500 toward hiring a consultant to help develop a strategic communications plan, which motion was seconded by Ed Goodlander, whereupon more discussion was had regarding the needs of Board members to review the proposal and Mr. McIntyre withdrew the motion. The Board will review the proposal and expects to act during the October meeting.
- h) Sally Michel honor: Sally Michel was an active member of the Roland Park community. Bob Connors discussed her legacy and stated that she passed away recently. He stated that, as a community, we should begin the process of thinking of how to honor her memory.
- i) Support for 2 letters by local neighborhoods: Bob Connors previously circulated letters written by two local neighborhoods.
 1. The first letter requests that Maryland State, rather than Baltimore City, police should respond to accidents along I-83. This has been an ongoing topic of discussion. Chris McSherry moved that Bob Connors should sign this letter, which motion was seconded by Dan Motz and passed unanimously by voice vote.
 2. The second letter asks Delegate Rosenberg to request a traffic study on the Falls Road Corridor. Mary Kay Battafarano asked that we request that the traffic study be extended from Falls Road and Northern Parkway to Charles Road and Northern Parkway.
 3. Chris McSherry moved that Bob Connors should sign this letter, which motion was seconded by Dan Motz, and passed unanimously by voice vote.
- j) Request by resident to fund clean-up of stickers in business block: A resident has offered to clean up the business block from stickers and has asked for up to \$50 from the Civic League to pay for cleaning products.
 1. Steve Grantz moved to authorize up to \$41.33, which motion was seconded by Ashley Handwerk and passed unanimously by voice vote.
3. Committee Reports
 - a) Architectural review: The windows at the shopping center are currently white, but will not remain white; they will be painted.
 1. 532 West University: The homeowners have filed a petition to the Court of Appeals following their loss in the Court of Special Appeals.
 2. There are draft revisions to the Bylaws, which should be presented at the October meeting.
 - b) Richard Bruno said that he recently met with Roland Park Place. The Keswick Multicare Center is opening on Monday. This facility is open to the public and will have facilities such as a gym and space for cooking classes.
4. Bob Connors adjourned the meeting at 9:16.