



Roland Park Civic League Board Meeting

via Zoom November 4, 2020

7:00PM

Board members present: Bob Connors, Ashley Handwerk, Martha Holleman, Andy Niazy, Bobby Marinelli, Ed Goodlander, Dan Motz, Devon Dodson, Jen Viglucci, Ken Rice, Mary Kay Battafarano, Rachel Dawson, Tom Hoen, Ann-Barron Carneal, Richard Bruno. Not present: Blair Storzer.

1. Routine Business

- a. President's Opening Remarks.
- b. Police/Fire Updates - none.
- c. Draft minutes for approval -- October minutes will be approved by email.

2. New Business

- a. Strong Schools Maryland: Martha Holleman reported that:

1) The Blueprint for Maryland's Future/ aka Kirwan Commission -- Strong Schools Maryland joining in partnership with others around the state to override Governor's veto of this legislation.

2) ACLU/ Bradford Case -- goal is to seek remedies for past underfunding of Baltimore City Schools based on the existing formulae (estimated to be something like \$230 million a year over 10 years).

3) City Schools/ City Delegation -- their effort is to hold school districts harmless for declines in enrollment related to the pandemic that would affect funding formulas based on student attendance/ enrollment -- they ask that 2019 enrollment levels are used.

- b. BCC update - Several Roland Park Community Foundation representatives met with leaders of BCC. It was an open dialogue but nothing new was learned. Stay tuned.
- c. Cross Keys: \$1,000,000 in deferred maintenance has started and work should be done by year end. Arsh Mirmiran explained that there is a plan for next month to do exterior work. In the meantime there will be work on deferred maintenance on sidewalks and brickwork to make access ways more passable. By the beginning of the year, there will be upgrades to interiors. A

question was raised about how this work merges with the GRP master plan especially in terms of sidewalks and pedestrian crossings, ways to make safer passages through the neighborhood. Board members noted that the walkability of Falls Road was definitely a discussion item.

- d. Eddie's Virtual Thanksgiving Food Drive will take place in partnership with MD Food Bank. The link will be on Nextdoor. There is concern about food supply lines, so there is an extra need. This is a good opportunity to give back to the community.

- e. There was a discussion about inviting Paige Glotzer, author of *How the Suburbs Were Segregated*, to speak to RPCL with the hopes of engaging our community in learning about history and its effects on our present day. She is available to speak after mid-November. The motion to approve her honorarium was deferred until the format and audience for her presentation is determined, perhaps this will occur at the annual meeting. The idea of a bookseller, The Ivy, to offer sales of her books in conjunction with the event was raised. Martha H. will work with Ashley H. and Rachel D. to come back to the Board with a more firm proposal.

- f. LaToya Eff, Customer and Community Relations for MTA, shared that the reduced fare office is closed through the end of month. She described their covid response to help mitigate the spread. There have been some route changes due to the decreased ridership. A question was asked about the vandalization of the passenger shed at the discontinued Falls Rd Terrace trolley stop. A call to 311 is needed.

- g. Robert Ginyard from Councilwoman Middleton's office explained that due to COVID, he is driving throughout the district to assist citizens so we may see him in our community.

3. Committee Reports

- a. Architectural Review: John Morrell - There is no additional action to report about the lighting at Bank of America on Roland Ave. He mentioned that construction and renovation work on houses is busy as there are lots of applications.

- b. Finance: Jen Viglucci - We have collected 92% of revenue over this date last year, so we are on track for this fiscal year. We have signed a 3 year lease on our office space and the cost increase is minimal. Path maintenance may occur in the next months.

- c. Social: Bob Connors - We can't do much due to the public health restrictions in place. Eddie's is planning a virtual holiday event to try to keep up traditions during the pandemic. We are not sure if there will be a Fire Department Toy Drive this year.

- d. GRP Master Plan: Martha Holleman -- They are working with nearby community groups to reflect on what's been accomplished and to suggest new areas of work. After circulating an update to our board members seeking feedback, she has received no comments to date. The deadline is Nov 17. Committees should take a look and send Martha comments.

- e. Maintenance: Andrew Marani - 90% of repairs are completed on the Ten Oaks path, replacing concrete and adding a railing on the north side of stairs. Treasurer Jen Viglucci pointed out that there are funds for more maintenance this year. Both Squirrel and Sunset Paths need railings. Some path signs need replacing, so Andrew will look into hiring a woodworker to do it.

- f. Land Use/Zoning: Andy Niazy - The proposed zoning height change recommended to City council (reduced zoning variance) has died. There is no pending vote.

- g. Traffic and Transportation: Devon Dodson -- Concerns regarding the Falls/Northern Parkway study our Committee raised recently were addressed in the latest public presentation. Initially we heard several exciting possibilities, however when the recommendations were made in conclusion those were not as robust as we'd hoped. The current proposal for changes at Falls and Northern Parkway lacks significant improvements and results in no time reduction. Devon advised the next step is a detailed review of additional study documents followed by another letter. There will be a meeting of the committee next week.

- h. Membership: Ann-Barron Carneal - There are a good number of families moving into the neighborhood. She will follow up with Hilary to deliver the welcome bags again.

- i. Landscape committee of RPCF -
 - i. Mary Page Michel - The scaffolding is up and renovations are moving along at the Water Tower. They scheduled an event on Saturday 11/7 from 10-12 to come offer suggestions and give opinions on the pocket park. The Foundation received some recent grants and donations to help with funding. Mary Page asked plat reps to make sure to include news of this project in emails to residents.

- ii. Kathy Hudson- The Oakdale triangle is being worked on. And the Meadow at Stony Run needs a lot of work. They have 50 trees for fall planting, including more for planting in Centennial Park. Paths are scheduled for late fall clean up.

4. Adjourn 8:25pm

“The Roland Park Civic League is a civic governing body that addresses matters affecting the interests of residents. Its purpose is to foster the common good and welfare of its members, to take action on those matters of mutual interest, and to otherwise represent the people of Roland Park.”