

# LPCA General Meeting Minutes - October 14th, 2020

## Held on Zoom

### Preliminaries:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- New Neighbor Introductions
- Treasurer Update: \$74,680.59
  - \$63,587.04 - General Fund
  - \$3,697.72 - Dog Park
  - \$7,395.83 - Park Fund (\$2,700 dollars from this year's budget will be returned to the General Fund if not used)
- Membership: 93 members as of last meeting

### Approval of previous minutes:

- Previous meetings have been live streamed and recorded.

### Committee Reports

#### Communications/Newsletter:

- If you would like to receive our emails, send a note to [contacts@mylocustpoint.org](mailto:contacts@mylocustpoint.org) and like our page on Facebook for updates. Send any editorial ideas or interest in volunteering on the newsletter - [communication@mylocustpoint.org](mailto:communication@mylocustpoint.org) .

#### Design Review:

- Southway MOU - To be covered in New Business/Community Announcements.

#### Dog Park:

- A warm welcome was issued to the new dog park chairs, Kelly & Kelly.

#### Parks & Beautification:

- Upcoming Events - to be posted on the facebook page.
  - Halloween Decoration Contest - October 31st

On Halloween Day between 9AM and 11AM, Hap & Cheryl extend an open invitation to walk the neighborhood and decide which house has the best decorations. There will be a prize for the winning house (to be decided, likely a gift card & signage). Reach out to the board or to Hap & Cheryl directly to get involved. Otherwise, decorate your house!

- Block Cleanup - November 7th.

In lieu of the normal fall neighborhood cleanup event the Park & Beautification Committee is facilitating a block by block cleanup. They are looking to recruit block captains to coordinate with their neighbors. There are no prizes or awards. Residents can place refuse with their normal garbage on the normal pickup day. If you need tools (hand tools, shovels and rakes), reach out to Cheryl to coordinate.

- Questions can be directed to [parksandbeautification@mylocustpoint.org](mailto:parksandbeautification@mylocustpoint.org).

### **Education & Schools:**

- School 1514 is what to link to if you go into Harris Teeter to sign up - must renew annually (Aug - May). If you register through LPCA, we will create a database of VIC numbers and automatically renew you in future years - either check the box on your membership form, or email VIC number to [education@mylocustpoint.org](mailto:education@mylocustpoint.org) .

### **Safety:**

- Matt has volunteered to join the South Baltimore Safety Steering committee. This is a new group of citizens consisting of representatives from adjacent neighborhood associations (Federal Hill, Riverside, Locust Point, etc). They will meet to decide how best to tackle and stay ahead of safety issues and to advocate to police and community leaders. Ginny has agreed to be Matt's backup.

### **Social:**

- The LPCA is looking to announce a charity or giving drive in November in lieu of the Christmas party this year.
- Last year the LPCA partnered with FSK to put on a holiday wreath fundraiser. It was timed to coincide with the FSK Holiday Extravaganza, which will be virtual this year. This year the association will run this fundraiser as a preorder. There will be three wreath options: undecorated, swag, and a larger size. A link to preorder will be distributed and payment will be gathered via Paypal. Two pickup days will be arranged around Thanksgiving. Proceeds will support FSK & the LPCA. More information will follow via email and on the FSK page prior to the November LPCA meeting.

### **Community Improvement Grants:**

- A grant to place a Little Library at the Latrobe Rec Center was submitted and approved. Thank you to Cheryl & Hap and everyone involved.
- These grants are available to the entire neighborhood. Projects may beautify, benefit, or otherwise enhance the community with a preference given to those ideas with lasting impact or creating broad new connections. Please consider submitting a grant to [contacts@mylocustpoint.org](mailto:contacts@mylocustpoint.org). The grant form is available on the website and on Facebook.

### **New/Old Business**

#### **PQ Plant:**

- An image was displayed of the proposed ballfield and parking arrangement.
- The final issue for the LPCA PQ Task Force was to arrive at a plan for the baseball field behind FSK. Mark Sapperstein has agreed to redo the ballfields. There was an onsite meeting last month between a number of stakeholders (Mark & Scott, South Baltimore Soccer, Parks, and the Little League). The goal of the meeting was to agree on a plan to add additional parking on Decatur Street while maintaining the fields to Little League regulation standards while not impeding too much on the forest. The stakeholders were satisfied with the plan after the meeting.
- The plan would add 22 parking spaces on Decatur and shift the ballfields east approximately 12-15 feet. A main concern amongst stakeholders was the proximity of the

ballfield and dugouts to the street. A fence was proposed to be about 4 feet high between those areas and the dugouts. Materials and positioning of these elements were discussed. The trailer used as storage for the youth soccer league would be moved within the area (not to FSK property).

- The LPCA PQ Task force supports this configuration to balance the needs of the Little League, Soccer League, and the desire to protect green space while expanding parking. Of note, this is the only field that satisfies the age 12+ Little League regulations in the area.
- Motion to accept the proposed arrangement was made from the membership and seconded.
- Motion carries with no opposing. Lara is empowered to inform Mark the plan is acceptable.
- Placement flags from the meeting may still be up if anyone would like to walk the site.

### **CSX Billboard City Council Bill:**

- At the September 10th meeting of the LPCA the membership voted to oppose legislation that would allow for the construction of billboards on CSX properties adjacent to highways. Matt and Kate joined the Planning Commission meeting and testified in opposition to the bill. City Council President Scott tabled the bill yesterday. It will not be voted on before the election and the LPCA is prepared to oppose it should it come up again.
- Councilman Reisinger has introduced new legislation that would change the current requirement that in order to place one (1) new digital billboard, three (3) non-digital billboards must come down. His legislation would remove that restriction. It will likely be opposed by other South Baltimore associations for various reasons (digital billboards are distracting to drivers, they create light pollution, and the communities have a general preference to maintain the existing caps as it encourages less billboards). There will be a hearing in the Land Use committee on October 23rd.
- A motion was made and seconded to voice opposition to this legislation.
  - Discussion followed to clarify that these measures are fundraising efforts and the association should be mindful of the need to raise funds. A response was offered that the Baltimore Sun ran an article estimating that the revenue raised from billboard related measures was around 250K a year or 0.001 percent of the city budget. Baltimore City gets a percentage of revenue based on sq ft of the billboard.
  - The motion passed without opposition.
  - The board will write a letter voicing the LPCA's opposition to this new legislation.

### **Updates from Diversity/Equity/Inclusivity (DEI) Task Force:**

- There were several negative and racially motivated incidents (primarily surrounding the local business, Ice Queens) in recent months. The LPCA seeks to be proactive in inclusivity and fostering a diverse environment.
- The DEI Task Force acknowledges the social media issues over the last month and these issues have been dealt with.
- The DEI Task Force is approved by board to:
  - Set a DEI Vision Statement for the LPCA board and Mission Statement for Task Force.

- LPCA Board DEI Vision Statement: We aspire to be a community that is a model for the nation in which people of different races, ethnic groups and backgrounds can interact, form friendships and participate fully in the community's economic, political, educational, and cultural life.
  - DEI Task Force Mission Statement: To educate the community of Locust Point about the history of systemic racism in Baltimore and the United States; to expose and engage the community with Black heritage; and to encourage the Locust Point community to support Black and minority-owned businesses in Locust Point.
- The DEI Task Force is approved to facilitate a streaming session with an expert to educate the community on Baltimore's history with systemic racism. The session will be made available to the board as well as open to the entire community. The Task Force will submit a Community Improvement Grant for this event.
- The DEI Task Force has been sanctioned for 3 months (until the end of the year) with the potential for rolling extensions if needed. Interested individuals can use this link to join the next meeting: <https://doodle.com/poll/7vdaya6e4wkek7bw>. The Task Force is soliciting ideas and support to bring the community together during the pandemic.
- Procedural Reminder - LPCA Task Forces are not designed to be permanent. The Task Force is looking to create permanency by adding the DEI perspective to the Community Improvement Grant board review process.
- A motion to adopt the DEI statements was made and seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.
- The LPCA and the DEI Task Force will adopt the statements as read.

#### **Requests to the LPCA to Promote Neighborhood Events:**

- The board gets numerous requests to promote events via email blast or their social media page. There is no existing framework to submit events to the board. A new form is available for these solicitations. Requests to promote events must be emailed or submitted via Google Form with at least 2 weeks of lead time. Events must be consistent with the LPCA charter (free/open to the public/for a charitable cause). The form will be distributed via email to the LPCA membership.

#### **City Guidelines for Halloween:**

- <https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/covid-19-holiday-guides>
- LPCA is not hosting any Halloween events.

#### **Board of Elections Information:**

- <https://boe.baltimorecity.gov/voter-information>

#### **Community Announcements:**

- Additional Parks & Beautification Committee updates:
  - The committee submitted an application for a Baltimore City Capital Improvement Project to restore the Latrobe Longhouse. The Longhouse was historically a shade structure. The submission included a design to restore the structure, keeping the current shape while improving views. The design was given support from CHAP, the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation.

- Some of the 2020 budgetary allocation funds will be used to get a plaque for the entrance between the benches. It will include information about the history of Latrobe park.
- There is no coordinated park cleanup due to COVID but there are still park tasks for anyone with spare time:
  - Limbs have fallen and need to be picked up. They can be placed between the Rec Center and tennis courts. Fallen limbs are a hazard to children playing in the park.
  - The existing flower beds need to be weeded around the park.
  - Anyone willing to help can feel free to touch base with Hap for guidance.

**Councilman Costello Office:**

- Kevin Hayes from Councilman Costello's Office stopped by the virtual meeting. If you have any issues you can reach out to him at [kevin.hayes@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:kevin.hayes@baltimorecity.gov).

**Dumpster Days:**

- The city will provide dumpsters on the 1500 block of Andre Street on Monday, November 2nd; Monday, November 30th; Saturday, Dec 19th; and Monday, Dec 28th. There is no exact time for dropoff but it will be posted on email and Social Media. The dumpster will be there for 6 hours before it is picked up.

**Neighbor Question:**

- What's going on with the Southway property?
  - The board is not sure an MOU proposal is ready yet. There has been back and forth regarding restriction on uses for the property. There is no vote ready for the general membership. Look for a full update and a potential vote at the November meeting. The goal is to keep the property at the R8 for massing and height.

**Motion and Second to Adjourn the Meeting:**

- Motion carries with no dissent.

**Adjourned 8:33 pm**