

LPCA General Meeting Minutes - January 13th, 2021

Held on Zoom

Preliminaries:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- New Neighbor Introductions
- Treasurer Update: \$68,448.40
 - \$61,716.88 - General Fund
 - \$3,628.69 - Dog Park
 - \$3,072.83 - Park Fund
- Membership: If you are listening on the Facebook live stream and want to become a member, send an email to the LPCA the Sunday before the General Meeting. Members should follow up on potential missed invitations the Sunday or the Monday prior to the General Meeting.

Committee Reports

Communications/Newsletter:

- If you would like to receive our emails, send a note to 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 .

Education & Schools:

- Information is starting to be made available about the return to school. New Parking signs have been posted. The rules for the school lot remain the same: residents should exit the lot by 7:30 AM and may return after school. Be sure to clear the lot for school staff. They ask that folks move their cars on a daily basis.
- Harris Teeter vic cards and Amazon Smile (please link to FSK).
- 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.

Diversity/Equity/Inclusivity (DEI) Task Force:

- The primary activity for the task force is to hold a DEI educational seminar. They will request a Community Improvement Grant for a DEI instructor from a highly esteemed instructor within Baltimore. If the grant is approved it will be available to the entire community. More to come after the grant is submitted.

Parks & Beautification:

- No new general updates. The plaque to signify that Latrobe Park is an Olmsted park has been delivered and the committee is looking into dates for installation. No cleanups have been scheduled for the spring as yet.
- Questions can be directed to parksandbeautification@mylocustpoint.org.

Safety:

- There are no updates on the new South Baltimore Safety Coalition Facebook Initiative at this time.

- Safety concerns can be sent to contacts@mylocustpoint.org.

Design Review:

- No updates.

Dog Park:

- No updates.

Social:

- Most events are cancelled or postponed.

Community Improvement Grants:

- 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. The grant form is available on the website and on Facebook.

New/Old Business

Virtual Membership Drive:

- LPCA Membership renewals are normally done in person at the January meeting. Those who would like to continue your membership may do so by signing up online. Payment can be accepted via Paypal. After submitting payment, members need to fill out a Google form prior to the next meeting. The LPCA Membership Google Meet will be restricted to paid members starting in February. Email contacts@mylocustpoint.org with questions.
 - Log into your PayPal account (www.paypal.com) and send \$5.00 per member to treasurer@mylocustpoint.org.
 - In the notes section, indicate the full names of all persons for whom the membership dues are paid.
 - Fill out google form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeEV4TF_labSNc_VNicdtYjTkyYLRA3H7KxM-fak0DXiDroKw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&gxids=7628

COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution:

- Councilman Costello (Eric.Costello@baltimorecity.gov) and Tyler McCurdy (Tyler.McCurdy@mlis.state.md.us) from the Senator Ferguson's office shared information regarding the vaccine roll out and answered questions from the membership.
 - <https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/covid-19-vaccine-information>
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOLUmMz_qtQ&feature=youtu.be
 - [https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/meeting_material/cov%20-%20132550451659846151%20-%20Joint%20COVID-19%20Workgroup%20Meeting%201.13.2021.1%20\(002\).pdf](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/meeting_material/cov%20-%20132550451659846151%20-%20Joint%20COVID-19%20Workgroup%20Meeting%201.13.2021.1%20(002).pdf)

Updates from Councilman Costello:

- Recycling pickup restarts on Tuesday, January 19th. Reminder, plastic bags are not recyclable. Pizza boxes or other greasy food containers are also not recyclable. Your

recycling bins should be secured when windy and left out the prior evening to be taken in the evening following pickup. Do not bind your recycling inside a plastic bag as the bag itself is not recyclable. You do not need to have a yellow recycling bin. Locust Point's collection day is Friday.

- <https://mayor.baltimorecity.gov/news/press-releases/2021-01-13-mayor-scott-announces-restart-weekly-curbside-recycling-tuesday>
- Question from the floor: Will the collection trucks such as the one at Digital Harbor continue?
 - Councilman Costello Responding (paraphrased):

He is unsure but feels it is likely that those locations will close as staff return to curbside collection.

- COVID Executive Order Updates
 - There are no changes at this time. There will be an announcement this Friday and any new changes will go into effect the Friday after they are announced. There has not yet been an announcement as to the time of the press conference. Friday conferences are normally at 2 or 3PM but no time has been confirmed.
 - <https://www.costelloforbaltimore.com/uncategorized/mayor-scotts-dec-09-executive-order/>
- Question from the floor: Is there an update on the Plastic Bag Fees? There is confusion about stores that may be collecting the fee already.
 - Councilman Costello Responding (paraphrased):

The Mayor issued an executive order suspending the implementation of the new ban on plastic bags for 6 months. Paper bags are five to ten times the cost of plastic bags. The mayor has every intention of implementing the ban. The Councilman will follow up regarding the timeline when he has more information.

Q&A with Councilman Costello & Tyler McCurdy:

- Could someone come in to explain what the new City Administrator position means for Civic Associations and how they interface with the mayor?
 - Councilman Costello Responding (paraphrased):

The City Administration would likely not be interfacing with Civic Associations as part of their duties. The Councilman noted he opposed the charter amendment. The position is supposed to be non-political and there are other positions that are geared to interactions with Civic Associations and outreach to citizens. It is likely those meetings would be with the Mayor or the Deputy Mayors. The City Administrator is currently being onboarded. The Councilman could probably have more information about how that post will operate in a month or so. Please use the normal channels for now. Changes to the organization chart have not clarified but that information will come.
- Is the organization chart shuffle related to Council President Mosby's elimination of the Transportation committees?
 - Councilman Costello Responding (paraphrased):

The number of committees has moved up and down over the years. Council President Mosby has reduced it to 6. The thought is that this more closely mirrors that of the state, which has 4 standing committees per house. The topics covered by eliminated committees have been moved into the remaining ones. The Committee changes are not related to the new City Administrator position.

- What are the right issues to bring to the attention of the many different reps for our community?
 - Councilman Costello Responding (paraphrased):

The main question is “who is the agency that is providing the service?” The Councilman’s office would handle issues like trash collection, recycling, water bill/service, DOT, red light cameras, speeding cameras, stop signs & crosswalks, potholes, questions for the Health Department, Parks & Rec maintenance, the Police Department, and Fire Department. The main citizen concern his office receives that is not a city issue is unemployment which is a state operation.

- Mr. McCurdy Responding (paraphrased):

The main issue of late is, indeed, unemployment. Please reach out if you know anyone having issues to his email (Tyler.McCurdy@mlis.state.md.us) or any of the Team 46 members. The state also handles tax assessment issues and does coordinate with the City and Federal offices as appropriate. Postal concerns are addressed at the federal level.

- If members reach out to Councilman Costello or Team 46 they will redirect as appropriate.

Delegate Lierberman:

- The Delegate will run for Comptroller in 2022. This will vacate her seat in District 46. The community is being approached by potential candidates to understand what is important to our community (development, parking, water taxi, safety, circulator, maintenance and cleaning issues surrounding the railroads, school funding). This will be an ongoing conversation.

LPCA Budget & Meeting Minutes Approval:

- We do not have a quorum present at this meeting. Voting on the 2021 Budget and Previous Meeting Minutes will be deferred until next month.

Baltimore Water Taxi Interest:

- The board has been approached to schedule a presentation about resuming service. if you are interested in helping with engagement on the water taxi service, email contacts@mylocustpoint.org.

Community Announcements:

- Free Zumba Classes are being offered at the Latrobe Rec Center, Wednesdays at 5pm (once permitted by the city). Call Larry Graff if interested for more information: 410-837-4423 or cell 443-286 4288

- Question from the floor: What is the distinction between gyms that are currently closed and this adult zoomba?
 - Councilman Costello Responding: (paraphrased)

The December 9th executive order limited fitness classes. The Mayor has been asked to reconsider the guidance. His first reaction is that this class would be a violation of the executive order and will follow up. It is possible this class is scheduled pending changes in the executive order and this just is just an general heads up.

Motion and Second to Adjourn the Meeting:

- Motion carries with no dissent.
- Reminder: Next meeting is February 10, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. via Google Meet

Adjourned 8:27 pm