

LPCA General Meeting Minutes - April 14th, 2021

Held on Google Meet

Preliminaries:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- New Neighbor Introductions
- Treasurer Update: \$77,632.50
 - \$68,230.98 - General Fund
 - \$5,772.83 - Dog Park
 - \$3,628.69 - Park Fund
- Membership: There are 30 new members this month for a total of 119. 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.
- If there is desire to continue to support remote attendance after the return to in person meetings, please reach out to contacts@mylocustpoint.org to voice your interest. The LPCA may look for a grant to continue supporting remote attendance.
- February/March Minutes Review/Vote:
 - A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The motion carried with no opposition or abstentions.

Committee Reports/General Updates

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:

- This Monday, Francis Scott Key Elementary-Middle School (FSK) returned seventy five to eighty percent (75-80%) of the student body. In-person learning happens Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- There is a golf outing on June 14th. FSK has partnered with Fed Hill Prep for the last 4 years. They are not seeking sponsorships. Information will be distributed on social media.
- The last day of school is Tuesday, June 16th.
- Harris Teeter vic cards (stops May 31st and restarts in August) 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.

Community Improvement Grants:

- DEI Training - A speaker will host a virtual meeting to speak on diversity and inclusivity within the community. This training will be open to Locust Point residents and extended to other communities in South Baltimore.
- Community Garden Plot - This grant will provide for the construction of more planter beds.

- 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 <https://mylocustpoint.wordpress.com/about-the-lpca/community-improvement-grant/> and on Facebook.

Design Review:

- Repair of Locust Point Signs
 - Mark Sapperstein has agreed to split the cost of refurbishing the signs at the corner of McComas & Andre (by dog park) and Hull & Key Highway Extension (by Underarmour). The estimate is \$1215 per sign.
 - A motion was made and seconded to approve the funds and partner with Mark Sapperstein for the reconditioning of the signs. The motion carried with no opposition or abstentions.
- Pile driving for the new silos at Domino's is about 25% finished. They are looking to complete that activity by the end of month.

Parks & Beautification:

- A big thank you to Hap, Bobby & Nick (from Carol Tree service), Bijal, and Nils on their work in the park. Several stumps have been ground down and turned to mulch. Four (4) new trees were added to the front of the park (Cyprus and Cherry). A plaque marking Latrobe as an Olmsted Park was installed near the front entrance in between the benches. The plaque design was created by Lamb Designs. Plaque installation and tree planting happened on 4/10.
- Saturday morning is the Earth Day Cleanup (4/17)! To support socially distancing we are asking those who need tools to check them out from the front of the park (bags, shovels, gloves). We will clean in the neighbourhood from 9AM-12PM. Tools and trash may be returned to the front of the park near the rec center when done. Please focus on gutters, alleys, and other areas along the street blocks.
- Question from the floor (members of the Parks & Beautification Committee responding; paraphrased):
 - Has there been tree trimming in the park? Several trees appear to have been greatly cut as of late.

Do not trim the trees within the park without engagement from the city. Only take away what has already been cut.

- What is the frequency of trash pickup within the park?

We are unsure about a regular schedule. Several residents have engaged with Councilman Costello to reach out to the Department of Public Works (DPW). Residents can also call 311 to request pickup if they notice things building up.

- There will be a Spring Park Cleanup on May 8th.
- Questions can be directed to parksandbeautification@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.

Safety:

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

Dog Park:

- No updates.

Social:

- The LPCA is planning the Fall Festival as it would typically run the event. Committee meetings will start in the next several weeks. We will evaluate the event again around 6 weeks out to understand the situation at that time for large events. There will be more information to follow in May. Questions or volunteers can reach out to the Social Committee.
- The committee is looking to run a summer mixer, the Re-Light City Party to celebrate the Domino Sugar Sign Re-Lighting at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. The tentative date would be July 9th but this has not been confirmed.
- Community Yard Sale Date and Plan; Donation Process with Purple Heart – The committee is hoping to organize this event in late May or June. Additionally, The Knights of Columbus is running a yard sale in their parking lot area on June 12th. Residents can purchase an area/table from them. The community will arrive at a date for the LPCA yard sale and distribute more information.

New/Old Business

UA Community Garden Updates

- The garden clean up day happened this weekend from 9 to 11 AM. There were twenty four (24) participants. Please stop by and check out the transformation. A grant from the LPCA provided the funds to buy supplies from Second Chance. Seven (7) new planter boxes were constructed and new composted dirt was brought in by Underarmour, who is also taking out the compostable material. Tools were rented from the Baltimore ToolBank. Thirty-Four (34) people are signed up for plots. There are no additional plots this season. Another working day is scheduled for this weekend.
- The beehives are active and one of them was split. There are 3 hives now.
- The committee is seeking ideas on what to do with excess material that gets harvested later this year.
- The committee is still working on their usage agreement with Underarmour.
- Questions can be directed to locustpointcg@gmail.com.

Community Street Lighting

- This is a resident driven, street by street, initiative that is spreading among nearby neighborhoods. The idea is to light up the streets more with lights across some of the smaller streets. Across the street lighting can not happen on larger streets (Hull) but there can be lights on the sidewalks.

- There is a Facebook initiative that coordinates with an individual named Chris. If you and your neighbors are interested a block captain can coordinate or reach out to Chris to light a specific block.
- Question from the floor (LPCA Board members responding; paraphrased):
 - Are there issues regarding permits and the length of time individuals can leave these lights up?

We are unsure about the process and what other communities have encountered.

- Concerns were voiced about light pollution?

This is just an informational announcement for community members, not an LPCA coordinated activity.

Woodall Street/Key Hwy Extension Development Updates

- Dan Goodier is developing plans for a 2 story building to run as a Goddard School. The community working group is coordinating with Goodier and Domino on issues of pickup, drop off, and noise. They are hoping to have updates for the May meeting.
- Question from the floor (Woodall/Stevenson working group responding; paraphrased):
 - Is there a deadline date from the developer?

There is no firm deadline that we are aware of. The developer is hoping for a delivered date (facility open) by the Fall of 2021. The working group is hoping to have a yea-nay vote for the next meeting on modifications to the previously negotiated Memorandum of Understanding.

Rec Center Staff Concerns

- Melvin Stone has worked at the Locust Point Rec Center for 12 years. Last month he was reshuffled to another center within the city. Members of the community have talked with him and he does not want this. Larry Graff, the current director of the rec center is currently on leave.
- The community has lost the morning sessions for seniors (the center does not open until 1 PM now) as well as the after school sessions for children (40-50 kids impacted). The community has reached out to the director of Rec and Parks but received no response. Councilman Costello engaged with Parks and Rec and was informed that at some (non-specific) point in the future Melvin may return. We would like to take the issue to the mayor.
- A motion was made and seconded for the community to approach the mayor to review Melvin's case and hopefully expedite his return. The motion carried with no opposition or abstentions.
- Comment from the floor:
 - The random shuffling of City recreation staff was a major point of testimony in support of the Healing City legislation during debate/discussion before the act became law.
- A second letter can be distributed for community members to sign onto. Community members can write personal letters as well (to the Mayor).

Zero Waste Coalition Presentation (Shashawnda Campbell - mysbclt@gmail.com)

- Video Presentation:
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2021/apr/12/inside-south-baltimores-fight-against-burning-trash-video>
- The work of the Zero Water Coalition was started in the community by residents in response to Bresco being the number one (1) air polluter in MD.
- Eighty percent (80%) of the input to the Bresco Incinerator could be reserved for other uses. Forty percent (40%) is food waste, which can be composited.
- The Coalition is hosting an event on April 22nd with the Mayor to speak about their commitments to Zero Waste. They would appreciate community support. Event information is available at <https://bmorezerowaste.eventbrite.com>.
- Information for the community -
<https://ccanactionfund.org/media/Health-Impacts-of-Incineration-Factsheet.pdf>
- Questions from the floor (Shashawnda Campbell responding; paraphrased):
 - Some households pay for food waste removal. Are there any options to de-privatize collection?

Marvin from the Baltimore Compost Collective will speak to it during his collections.

- Is there any work to advocate for pollution reduction mitigations (scrubbers) at Bresco?

The Bresco contract was supposed to be up in December. A pollution agreement was added to the new contract which addressed some limited items. The Zero Waste Coalition is focused on diversion of input away from the incinerator.

Baltimore Compost Collective (Marvin - baltimorecompostcollective@gmail.com)

- The Baltimore Compost Collective is a youth led food scrap collection service that has been serving this area for 5 years. <https://baltimorecompostcollective.org/join-here/>
- Due to COVID the current model is contactless pickup at the Ella Bailey recreation center from 9-11 AM on Sundays and at Mount Washington Northwest Park from 12:30-2:30 PM on Sundays.
- If there is interest from more than 25 residents in Locust Point the collective will open a third drop off spot on Sundays in Locust Point.
- They advocate for collection of compostable material as the city does with trash and recycling.
- When pickup resumes the cost for at-home pick-up service is \$25 dollars a month. The food waste is processed and used at Filbert Street Garden.

Community Announcements:

- This weekend is the start of Chalk Your Walk 2. There will be stations at Latrobe, Federal Hill, Riverside, and Otterbein to pick up chalk. Prizes will be awarded to restaurants and businesses. Pick up bins with chalk will be put out on April 17th from 10AM-2PM. The chalking event itself runs from April 23-25th. Chalk your walk and post to instagram hashtag #chalkyourwalk.

Motion and Second to Adjourn the Meeting:

- Motion carries with no dissent.
- Reminder: Next meeting is the Annual Meeting on May 12th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. via Google Meet

Adjourned 8:53 pm