

LPCA General Meeting Minutes - February 8th, 2022

Held at FSK Elementary/Middle School Cafeteria

Preliminaries:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- New Neighbor Introductions
- Treasurer Update:
 - \$66,154 - General Fund
 - \$3,744 - Dog Park
 - \$4,494 - Park Fund
 - Paypal payments for \$5 annual memberships now accepted (and checks to PO Box); cash will be accepted at meeting, and checks can be mailed to Locust Point Civic Association, PO Box 27097, Baltimore, MD 21230-0097
- There are 37 currently paid memberships. Please renew your membership for 2023.
- November/January Minutes Review/Vote:
 - A motion was made to approve the minutes and seconded. The motion was carried with no objections or abstentions.

Committee Reports/General Updates

Safety:

- COP/DoT Walks
 - The LPCA tries to have a walk once a month. The goal is to identify areas in Locust Point that need attention. For example, during one walk the stretch of Fort Avenue from Bracuddas to Amber had no working lights. Most times a representative from the councilperson's office joins and sometimes the BPD will send an officer.
- BPD Southern District Representative Officer Owens was present.
 - There was one (1) crime in the reporting area since January 1, a larceny (package theft).
 - Please make sure you lock your doors and garages
 - Questions from the floors:
 - Is there any update on the Hull Street shooting?

Several weapons used in that shooting were found in relation to other arrests.

- Is there any update regarding the person who was living in Latrobe park? What should we do if this happens again?

BPD has started to reach out and find areas for encampments. The city coordinates homeless outreach personnel that attempt to relocate those individuals. The situation can then be escalated to BPD. Residents can contact Officer Owens to keep him apprised.

- Is Officer Torress still around?

Yes, he is in the same unit for now.

- The community has had a pretty good campaign for lighting in the area. If residents see lights out please put in a 311 request and email the ticket number to Officer Owens.
- The community is working with the city on the trucks using the residential roads. DoT has placed no truck signs on the Key Highway entrance to Hull Street. The next location to work on signage would be on Fort Avenue by City Limits to direct trucks to I-95 via Andre. We are also working with the city for enforcement via truck overheight cameras.
- The board is coordinating a request for Sapperstein/21 Walker to indicate no trucks on the portion of road connecting Key Highway to Fort Avenue by the Harris Teeter.
- Liam Davis, Legislative Affairs Manager at Baltimore City Department of Transportation, was in attendance.

- As indicated, additional signage has been added on the Key Highway entrance to Hull Street. There seems to be a decline in truck traffic on that street.
- There is no update on the deployment of truck overheight camera.
- A five (5) million dollar federal grant was secured to upgrade the Harbor Connector. Funds to be used for new vessels and ADA upgrades.
- In regards to the specific community asks around Fort Avenue (signal retiming and traffic calming), DoT is actively pursuing them. Current strategies are a mix of longer term physical build outs and shorter term flex posts and painting. DoT is about to start an effort to retime all lights in the city. There is a long term desire to move toward sensor based signaling but there are 1,300 signalized intersections in the city which is twice the amount of State Highway Administration. DoT is trying to upgrade them but at current funding levels this would take decades.
- Questions from the floor:
 - Is there any thought to expanding harbor connector service?

DoT is open to community feedback. There was a working group pre-covid.

- Regarding build outs of pinch points, what do they look like? This takes away parking. How does DoT coordinate with the community?

There are community led avenues to do traffic calming.

- Has there been any update on the proposed Porter Street crosswalk? It was brought up that there might not be funding for the crosswalk.

Please loop him in on the current email communications.

- What is the DoT approach to deployment of red light cameras?

There are roughly 140 speed and red light cameras in the city. A lot of them are concentrated. The community can flag locations of concern by emailing community liaison Sandra Matier. The department plans to install 18-24 new cameras this year.

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

Parks & Beautification:

- The community met with Parks & Rec's Director Moore; he will attend the March meeting!

- Director Moore was open to most of the community feedback.
- There are new No Dogs Allowed signs on Banner Field.
- We have requested 5 new signs for the area behind the school and Latrobe for leashing dogs.
- Tomorrow evening at 6PM there is a group meeting at the dog park to pick up the tree limbs.
- There is an individual trimming the trees who has been identified. Please don't engage the individual, they are not known to be aggressive.
- Earth Day is coming up, there will be a cleanup during Earth Week.
- The Latrobe Longhouse project will probably take longer than any of us would like but it is moving forward.
- Sunshades on the playgrounds will be up this spring, whether new or refurbished. The estimate for 4 new sunshades is \$43k. Cost to reinstall the 3 existing ones that are functional is \$10k.
- The bathrooms in the park have not been open/stocked/cleaned and Rec Center access has been denied. Director Moore is looking into both issues. If the Rec Center is open, the bathrooms are meant to be available (must sign in). Mr. Barnes is the new Rec Center coordinator (center open from 1-9PM).
- Please don't cut any branches in the park.
- Please advocate for the park budgets to your city.
- If you are interested in joining the parks and recs committee in one of the targeted task forces, questions can be directed to parksandbeautification@mylocustpoint.org.

Education & Schools:

- The 9th annual Pasta Palooza fundraiser for Francis Scott Key Elementary-Middle School is coming up. That committee is looking for baked good donations.
- Federal Hill Prep Elementary is hosting their 6th Annual Golf Scramble and is looking for sponsors.
- 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 jjrs10132007@gmail.com.

Social:

- The city permit is approved for the LPCA Festival on Saturday, September 9th.
- The social committee is looking to plan a spring event. Expect more to come.
- Defenders Day Sponsorship - the LPCA is working in conjunction with Fort McHenry to sponsor a table at Defenders Day (same day as festival).
- The board is looking at options for hosting community nights at the Fort. The idea is this would keep the Fort open though the evening hours and we are looking for 3 days in the summertime. The superintendent is working on options surrounding 3 Wednesdays in June, July, and August.
- Question from the floor- Is the Aquarium cleanup at the Fort happening this year?

It has not been announced as of now. The aquarium also does canoe/kayak tours of the area.

UA Community Garden Updates

- There are 33 people on the waiting list and the garden committee is looking to work with UnderArmour to build 17 new plots.

- The committee is looking to partner with Baltimore Compost Collective and perhaps offer a free month of membership for LPCA members.
- Questions can be directed to locustpointcg@gmail.com.

Communications/Newsletter/Website:

- 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.

Community Improvement Grants:

- No updates.
- 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:

- No updates.

LPCA Website:

- No updates.

Dog Park:

- No updates.

New/Old Business

2023 Budget Review & Approval

- The proposed LPCA budget has increased this year due to two (2) very successful back to back festivals. The Board is proposing an increased budget for 2023.
- Items that make up the increase:
 - LPCA days at Fort McHenry
 - Porter Street Crosswalk expense
 - Social Budget (winter mixer/spring or summer event)
 - Traffic Study close out report
 - Technology budget (festival website and items for virtual meetings)
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2023 budget. The motion carried with no abstentions or objections.
- Comments can be sent to the LPCA board.

Stevenson/Woodall Construction Status Update

- The project is nearing its end and construction is happening mostly on the inside of the building.
- Complaints can be sent to the LPCA board.

Ryan Homes Construction Concerns

- No update.
- Complaints can be sent to the LPCA board.

Community Announcements

- Evan Roberts is in attendance and is requesting a letter of support from the community in regards to redevelopment of the A-1 Drive Shaft property at 1642 Beason Street.
 - Cooker Construction has been operating out of his house. The property has 8000 square feet of space. The concept is to split the property and operate Cooker Construction out of the high bay portion of the building. On the other side would be a coworking space and an Ovenbird Bakery storefront. This would be conditional use under the existing R-8 zoning.
 - Questions from the floor:
 - What's happening with the property?

A-1 is selling the space.
 - What are the ideas for hours and parking?

The office use and cafe is geared toward daytime (7AM-6PM) which should minimize impact to residents finding parking in the evening. The property could be converted to 8 apartments by right but doesn't make sense for the neighborhood.
 - What expected use of the coworking space?

Single offices. The test fit featured 20 single use offices and a conference space. They haven't looked at an open workspace concept and are catering toward professionals.
 - Is there a timeline for construction and expectation for noise level?

The project would take about 6-8 months. Currently, the settlement is April and A-1 would lease back the property for 4-6 months to relocate. During that time they would have to go before the zoning board. They are trying to track down the pit lot for potential parking and there is also the possibility of reaching an agreement with UA for parking space use. Noise during construction should be on par with rehabbing a house.
 - Will there be truck traffic for contracting?

They are not expecting much truck use as employees take vehicles home. The space will be for deliveries and staging.
 - What zoning are you seeking?

We are seeking the Neighborhood Commercial Enterprise designation. The zoning would continue to observe the underlying R-8.
 - A motion was made and seconded for a conditional letter of support for a Neighborhood Commercial Enterprise zoning on the underlying R-8 and to show

they met with the community to share their view of the concept. The motion carried with no abstentions or objections.

- Jasmine Kimble from Reimagine Middle Branch approached the community for a letter of support for their upcoming project meeting on 2/9/2023.
 - A motion was made and seconded to provide a letter of support for the Middle Branch plan.
 - A motion was made and seconded to amend the letter to detail the issues surrounding access to Middle Branch via the crossing on McComas Street and to be conditional on the working group continuing to engage with the community.
 - The motion carried with no abstentions or objections.
- Port Covington/Baltimore Peninsula Update - Nancy Mead from Councilman Costello's office - the developer is reaching out to the communities and should be invited to an upcoming meeting.
- There will be a meetup to look at the crosswalk across McComas Street next Wednesday @ 5PM. Anyone interested in joining can meet at the Starbucks in Harris Teeter. It is listed as a pathway in the Reimagine Middle Branch plan.
- A motion was made and seconded to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. The motion carried with no abstentions or objections.
- Steve Cole from SoBo Post is in attendance. The I Love Sobo Day event at the Baltimore Museum of Industry will be May 7th, 2023. It is open to the community and will be a larger event this year. South Baltimore Gateway Partnership is offering a grant. He is asking for a letter of support for his grant application. A motion was made and seconded to provide a letter of support for the grant application form the LPCA. The motion carried with no abstentions or objections.
- Dumpster Days have been scheduled for 2023 on 3/11, 6/17, 9/23, and 12/16.
- EAT is open and would love for residents to come check them out.
- Rec & Parks is hosting a listening session regarding pickleball on March 2nd @ 6PM at BCRP Admin Building. Jackie Blackwell is also doing Locust Point pickleball and is coordinating via a Facebook group.

Motion and Second to Adjourn the Meeting

- Motion carries with no dissent.
- Reminder: The next LPCA meeting will be March 8th.

Adjourned 9:07 pm