

# LPCA General Meeting Minutes - March 8th, 2022

## Held at FSK Elementary/Middle School Cafeteria

### Preliminaries:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- New Neighbor Introductions
- Treasurer Update:
  - \$66,010 - General Fund
  - \$4,494 - Dog Park
  - \$3,744 - 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 76 currently paid memberships. Please renew your membership for 2023.
- February 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.
  - Three (3) lights were out in the park and the group opened 311 requests. Those lights are now working.
- A BPD Southern District Representative was not present.
- Jazmin Kimble from the Department of Planning and Reimagine Middle Branch joined LPCA members at the Harris Teeter and walked down to the McComas Street crosswalk to demonstrate the current state of that crossing into Baltimore Peninsula/Middle Branch. She will take her impressions back to the committee.
- Porter Street Crosswalk Update
  - The Department of Transportation provided the plans for the crosswalk to the LPCA. DoT was expecting the community to fund the sidewalk work in its entirety. The LPCA asked the city to provide an estimate and will follow up with private contractors as well. If we pursue a private contractor the contractor would apply for a right of way from DoT. The DoT is willing to do the crosswalk marking without the ramp. As a reminder there is a \$6k line item in the budget for potential work, though the LPCA is hoping not to have to use the funds.
  - The DoT contact assigned to the crosswalk issue has been moved to the ADA section. There are many ADA issues in the neighborhood to resolve.
- There have been recent issues with a person living in Latrobe Park.
- As a reminder, if you open a 311 ticket please email the board with the ticket number.
- Safety concerns can be sent to [contacts@mylocustpoint.org](mailto:contacts@mylocustpoint.org).

## **Parks & Beautification:**

- Parks & Rec's Director Reginald Moore and team was in attendance.
  - Chief of Capital Development - Adam Borman
  - Deputy Director of Parks and Facility Maintenance - Ed Wheeling
  - Chief of Staff, Esq. - Jacia T. Smith
  - Chief of Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships - Tim Almaguer
- Update on the Longhouse - Parks and Rec is working with the Team 46 legislative members and they have identified 2 pots of funding(a \$100k local grant and a \$200k PGS grant). They are working on other sources as well. Those funds are still waiting on an approval process at the Board of Public Works before the funding is live. The application is being drafted and must be submitted before it can be approved. Architecture and site work improvements are continuing and Parks and Rec is hoping to bid the work later in 2023.

- Question from the Floor: Are the funds expireable?

Funds typically come with about a 5 year timeline which should be plenty of time. Parks and Rec is trying to accelerate the pace of construction to make sure funds are used.

- Question from the Floor: Are there plans for doing fence/retaining wall/post repairs in the park?

There are two avenues to pursue for these issues. Please put in a service request to 311. Also, it is possible to work through the Community Engagement team to connect with the right folks at Facility Maintenance. If you have ticket numbers for repairs, please send them to the Community Engagement team.

- Question from the Floor: Regarding the longhouse, there is some of the paint that is peeling/chipping. Is there a lead issue?

There was lead testing that was done but we are unsure of the results as of this meeting.

- Question from the Floor: What upkeep is required for Banner Field?

This week Parks and Rec had a rep from Astroturf visit all the turf fields in the city and do testing to provide recommendations. Periodic maintenance will be planned with the Facility Maintenance group. It will likely be scheduled monthly and include some cadence for brushing, filling, and g-shock(impact) tests.

- Question from the Floor: Is there a plan to install new astroturf in the dog park?

The dog park team could go through the Community Engagement group for that. It would not necessarily have the same requirements as the other turf fields and would likely be a different vendor. The city may be able to do it in house. Parks and Rec is taking the same approach with the dog parks to get them on a better maintenance schedule.

- Question from the Floor: Latrobe is still dealing with an increase in off leash dogs in the park. Is there a timeline for the 5 signs that were requested?

Parks and Rec has 25 signs on order. A few have come in. Placement is expected to begin in the next few weeks and hopefully be completed by the end of March.

Parks and Rec has done some pilot programs with Animal Control. Enforcement is of limited effectiveness. Parks and Rec is in talks with the city council for solutions. It is a challenge. Parks and Rec is in the process of posting for rangers. Rangers are an engagement component, not just enforcement. Rangers used to be part time-seasonal positions. These 5 new positions are all full-time employees with benefits.

- Question from the Floor: There has been concern about overuse of tennis courts by pay-to-play sports leagues. What is the city policy for permitting those activities? The trash on the fields after use is disheartening. Can this be enforced/penalized?

Adult leagues do use the facilities. Volo is launching a pickleball league which prevents access to the court to the community. Parks and Rec will need to follow up on if the tennis courts are permitted. The city is looking to expand pickleball options in response to increased demand. There is a new chief of permits. Citizens can send complaints to the permitting office. Typically the city reaches out to the permit holder and that normally resolves any issues with trash. As a longer term strategy and in response to an uptick in messiness, the city is looking to start collecting security deposits from permit holders. Typically basketball and tennis courts are not permitted. There is a city wide-team looking into increasing the transparency for all permitted functions (DOT/Housing/Rec and Parks) and they are looking to provide recommendations.

- Question from the Floor: The concert grove/volleyball side of the park does not have trees in accordance with the tree plan. The LPCA had been using offsetting funds but is there an easier or better way to move forward with plantings?

Rec and Parks does their planting in the spring and partners with Blue Water Baltimore. The City provides the trees and locations and Blue Water plants and waters. There is a warranty period. The park committee can work with the Community Engagement team to provide the locations.

Information from the LP Parks Committee: In Latrobe, Robert Sailor is working with Tree Baltimore (Rec and Parks) on more mature plantings. The tree plan has been pushed back a bit.

- Update on the Rec Center - Larry Graf has retired and a new director has been assigned. Regarding programming, Parks and Rec is looking to meet with the community to understand what the community is looking for. The Rec Center previously had a morning focus, and this will be shifting to an evening focus(1-9PM). Due to tenure, the Locust Point Rec Center was not operated in line with the rest of the system. Please give Director Barnes a chance to get settled. Locust Point will be operated more consistently with the rest of the Rec Centers.

Karen Jordan will be the point of contact for issues with the Rec Center.

- Question from the Floor: Can the hours for the Rec Center hours be posted?

The hours will be 1PM to 9PM on Monday through Friday. Parks and Rec is working to identify vendors for signage updates across the city. The signage should be replaced soon but there is no timeline. The closest weekend center to Locust Point is Cherry Hill.

- Update on the playground shade sails - The sails were not designed to be removed and reinstalled. One of the sails was damaged when it was erroneously removed. The original vendor has gone out of business. A new contractor is going to install the 3 functional ones and measure them to create a 4th sail. This is going to procurement now. The sail hardware has been a challenge to replace. That hardware will be part of the new contract with the new vendor. The three sails in working order should be up before the weather is hot and the fourth will follow when it is ready.
- 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](mailto:parksandbeautification@mylocustpoint.org).

### **Education & Schools:**

- Saturday is Pasta Palooza. The event is sold out.
- There is an upcoming Half Day for Professional Development and parent-teacher conferences are underway.
- The school has received \$25k through the Harris Teeter VIC card program. This has already surpassed last year's total and the program runs until Memorial Day.
- 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](mailto:jjrs10132007@gmail.com).
- Amazon is no longer running Amazon Smile.

### **Social:**

- The city permit was approved for the LPCA Festival on Saturday, September 9th.
- The Knight of Columbus is having their spring luau on June 3rd.

### **UA Community Garden Updates**

- Under Armour has announced they are selling the community garden plot.
- The garden community is working to advocate for UA to find a different method to divest themselves of the property. The community contacted the District 46 representatives and drafted a letter for them to advocate to UA at the right level for the community (Senate President Bill Ferguson is leading that effort).
- The committee is working on creating a petition and would like the LPCA to support that petition. The language of the petition will reflect that the community wishes for the space to remain a garden through some means.
- A motion was made to support a petition and to submit a letter of support to UA from the community. The motion was seconded and passed with no objections or absentions.
- UA has informed the committee to expect another season at the garden. The property will not be sold prior to the 2023 growing season.

- The waiting list has grown to 34 people. There will be no new plots funded from UA. Any improvements would be made via the garden's fund.
- Questions from the floor:
  - Is the committee organizing any meetings?

They are waiting for the initial response for the petition & letter from the legislatures.

- Should the community form a task force? Does the committee understand what it means to own a parcel or have it donated?

The ultimate goal would be for UA to donate the land to the Baltimore Greenspace Trust. They are already in touch with that organization. The garden fits the requirements for a Greenspace donation. The board will likely be creating a task force for both the garden and the UA sale generally. If you are interested please send an email to [contacts@mylocustpoint.org](mailto:contacts@mylocustpoint.org).

- Questions can be directed to [locustpointcg@gmail.com](mailto:locustpointcg@gmail.com).

#### **Communications/Newsletter/Website:**

- 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).

#### **Community Improvement Grants:**

- No updates. The committee has received no grant applications this year.
- 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 <https://mylocustpoint.wordpress.com/about-the-lpca/community-improvement-grant/> and on Facebook.

#### **Design Review:**

- No updates.

#### **LPCA Website:**

- No updates. Please check out the site at <https://www.mylocustpoint.org>.

#### **Dog Park:**

- No updates.

#### **New/Old Business**

#### **Stevenson/Woodall Construction Status Update**

- No update. Work is wrapping up and most of what remains is happening on the inside. The builder has been a good partner and responsive.
- 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 Woodard / Salvage Arc: Baltimore explorer and historian. He leads magnet fishing expeditions in the harbor on Thursdays, and digs out old (now dirt) privies, finding and restoring artifacts. He had a conflict and is hoping to come to the April meeting.
- The Reimagine Middle Branch plan was approved. We are in contact with the City Planners to try to get Locust Point better connected to the project.
- Dumpster Days have been scheduled for 2023 on 3/11, 6/17, 9/23, and 12/16.
- Questions/Announcements from the community:
  - What is going on with the Port Public House?

The owners still plan to open but there are not a lot of specifics at this time.

- The Catholic Community of South Baltimore is asking neighbors for ideas on what the neighbor needs. Those with feedback can reach out to provide ideas.

## **City News**

- May 7th: I Love SoBo Day from 9 am – 2 pm @ Museum of Industry Pavilion.

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

- Motion carries with no dissent.
- Reminder: The next LPCA meeting will be April 12th.

**Adjourned 8:40 pm**