

LPCA General Meeting Minutes - April 12th, 2023

Held at FSK Elementary/Middle School Cafeteria

Preliminaries:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- New Neighbor Introductions
- Treasurer Update:
 - \$70,737 - General Fund
 - \$4,494 - Dog Park
 - \$3,744 - Park Fund
 - There are ongoing festival expenses and we also received the annual donation from 21 Walker.
 - 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 currently 108 paid memberships. Please renew your membership for 2023.
- March 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 Officer Owens was in attendance with a local patrol officer.
 - There has been one reported crime in the last 28 days, which was a larceny.
 - Question from the floor: What is the summertime plan for an increase in people and traffic?

The summertime plan is for more overtime initiatives, with one or two staff for now and a plan to increase later on.

- Question from the floor: About 10 motorcycles came through yesterday, what is the policy on dirt bikes?

The dirt bikes are a key topic, and it's hard to stop them as there is no pursuit policy. If anyone sees them parking somewhere, they should call 911. They can be followed and the bike taken. When the police arrive, they normally depart.

- Question from the floor: What's the rationale behind the pursuit policy?

If an accident occurs during a chase, the police are at fault.

- Question from the floor: Who sets the policy?

The policy is set by the police commissioner and mayor.

- Question from the floor: There was a car on Fort Avenue with flat tires, what happened to it?

Locations were provided, and at least one car was towed.

- Question from the floor: Is the 7-11 & BP parking lot a meeting spot for officers?

Informally.

- Question from the floor: Last summer, there was trouble with the "car shows". Is there a plan for this summer?

If anyone sees anything suspicious, they should call BPD. Last year, the issue was the use of social media to switch locations. Once that was determined, they were able to interrupt the events. If anyone sees anything on social media, they should inform BPD. People with non-urgent information can contact Officer Owens via email or text, not 911. The contact information is available on the LPCA website.

- Question from the floor: What should we do if we see dirt bikes fueling?

Call 311 and let them know. The business can be fined.

- A DoT Representative was not present.
- 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.

Parks & Beautification:

- On April 22nd, Earth Day, there will be a cleanup at Latrobe Park from 9 a.m. to noon. The event will involve cleaning alleys and streets, and supplies will be provided.
 - Question from the floor: What should we do with debris from pruning trees?

The debris can be picked up by submitting a 311 ticket. Alternatively, it can be dropped off at the park on Earth Day.

- On June 3rd, there will be a Spring Maintenance Day in Latrobe Park from 9 a.m. to noon. Activities will include trimming bushes, planting, mulching, and potentially planting trees.
- Carlos Comancho, head of Community Engagement for Parks and Rec, Lloyd Barnes, new Rec Center Director, and Sharon Bucknor from Parks and Rec were in attendance.
 - The PO for shade sails has been signed, and they are waiting for a date to come out and install them.
 - No timeline yet for benches and dog signs, but a site visit was conducted with the Chief of Park Maintenance and the Deputy Director of Parks and Management to look at the placement of the signage.
 - Comment from the floor: A goal for the park should be to keep dogs on leashes and for owners to clean up after them.

Enforcement is difficult. People are encouraged to call 311 for animal control.

- The grant application for Longhouse was sent to the State Board of Public Works, but there is no update on the timeline for approval.
- Question from the floor: Can we get hours of operation for the rec center and a sign?

A bulletin board is being put up on the rec center, and information is available on CivicRec.

- Question from the floor: The community would like to use some of the courts for pickleball. Pay to play organizations use a lot of resources. Is there a process for when CivicRec permitting fails? There are issues of equity to accommodate the communities.

The permit situation on the courts will be clarified, and Parks and Rec will engage with the community.

- Question from the floor: The registration for the pools is troublesome, and can non-residents use them?

Pools are not for city residents only, and they should be allowing walk-ups. Parks and Rec can clarify if CivicRec registration is required.

- Question from the floor: Where can we find information on reserved courts?

CivicRec should have that information.

- Question from the floor: Does Parks and Rec get payment from pay leagues?

Organizations seeking permits from the City need to pay.

- Comment from the floor: There hasn't been much communication between the Rec Center and the School/LPCA/PTO.

With the new staff, efforts will be made to increase communication.

- Parks and Rec is seeking input on programming for the Rec Center. A survey for the community is available in paper form and digital form. Suggestions for programming include pickleball, adult art classes, and cultural events.
- 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:

- No update.
- Introductions can be made between the Rec Center and the PTO, admin and faculty.
- 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 was approved for the LPCA Festival on Saturday, September 9th.
- Latrobe Park Summer Concerts similar to the Second Sunday concerts at Riverside could start in July.

UA Community Garden Updates

- The garden committee has been doing a lot of press in the last few weeks, with articles appearing in several publications including the Baltimore Banner, Baltimore Sun, Baltimore Brew, and the Business Journal. Today, a piece was on WMAR ABC.
- The committee plans to continue engaging with the media to promote the message that Under Armour (UA) has been a great partner, and the community would like to continue that partnership. If anyone has contacts at UA, they are encouraged to advocate for this message.
- UA will be exiting the property in 2024, and a petition with 1475 signatures was provided to express community support for continuing the garden partnership.
- UA still plans to sell the property, but they have said to plan for one more year in the garden.
- The garden has 112 members, and some plot additions are planned for this year.
- A PUD was signed in 2008 with UA, which is public. It states that 140 townhomes can be built on UA property, along with retail space and up to 3 class C liquor licenses. The warehouse can also be converted into more office space.
- Question from the floor: Are the buildings historic?

The PUD stipulates that they cannot be knocked down, and there are many other stipulations for their use.

- The property is not on the market yet, but there have been outside bids. The speculation is that the garden is worth about 1.6 million dollars and could host 9 homes. The city values the land at 600k for mixed residential and commercial use. Depending on residential use, further soil remediation may be required.
- Citizen access to the waterfront is ensured by a city easement.
- 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:

- We received one grant application about a possible comedy night, and have following up with questions to the grantee.
- 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.
- Please check out the site at <https://www.mylocustpoint.org>.

Dog Park:

- No updates.

New/Old Business**Stevenson/Woodall Construction Status Update**

- The LPCA needs to have a meeting about pickup/dropoff. If you are interested please reach out because the meeting will need to be in the next two months.
- Complaints can be sent to the LPCA board.

Ryan Homes Construction Concerns

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

Issues to Watch

- BGE is installing external gas regulators in historic districts. This is not happening in Locust Point yet; please let us know if BGE contacts you / any of your neighbors about installing something similar.

UA Transition

- Be on the lookout for more information.

Community Announcements

- Dave Moore, superintendent at Fort McHenry, along with Robert Stuart, assistant superintendent, were in attendance to discuss new hours, Defender's Day updates and other events.
 - Spring has been incredible and visitors are back to 2017-2018 numbers.
 - The park hours are changing, and starting May 15th, it will be open from 7AM-6PM.
 - National Park Week is coming up, and the Fort will be open for Art in the Park and other programming. On the 25th, flag talks will be held and they will attempt to raise the big flag, followed by a Nationalization ceremony at the Fort.
 - Planning is ongoing for Defenders Day and Juneteenth, and information is being posted on social media.
 - They would like to increase local usage and requested advocacy from the community.
 - The park is willing to cosponsor an extended evening per month and would like to pilot it this year.
 - Questions and comments from the floor:
 - Have you thought about a movie night/food truck?

It might be a little late for this year. We are looking to the Friends of the Fort to help. We are looking to do food trucks for Defenders Day and would like to do it in conjunction with other events.

- Have you considered June 21st as the first day for the equinox with lawn games?

We can talk about folks bringing in their own equipment.

- Can we coordinate with Canton's First Thursdays?

We love the idea, please coordinate with the Friends of the Fort.

- Could we facilitate with other community associations?

Yes!

- The crabapples are in bad shape. What is being done about it?

We are working on replacing them, and they will be planted when appropriate.

- Is there free music at the Fort?

There is expanded music on Defenders Day. Sometime in 2024 (June 7th?), the BSO should be playing.

- Do the picnic tables get a lot of use?

The ones that are by Orpheus get a lot of use. We are going to be creating another grove of picnic tables by the visitors center towards the seawall.

- Are there kayak trips?

Those are done in partnership with the National Aquarium, Baltimore National Heritage, and Ultimate Watersports. They are mostly focused on kids and veterans. There should be one day for the entire community for water activities. It is first come first serve. There is a lot of liability. Baltimore Blueways is considering Ft. McHenry as a stopover, but the water around the Fort is not for beginners.

- Your social media person is awesome. Kudos on the promotion.

Thank you!

- Is there a leash policy in the park? What about bikes and scooters?

Yes, there is a leash policy. If you see folks riding too fast on bikes talk to a ranger. Scooters are not permitted.

- It would be nice to have a kite evening.
- Do you need volunteers?

Info is on the website or you can call the park if you would like to volunteer.

- Are you tracking the change to the circulator route?

We don't see a whole lot of usage coming to the park from the circulator bus. We would like to see what happens after COVID.

- Defenders Day is the weekend of September 16th with activities also happening on the weekend of the 9th and throughout the week.
- The Fort is currently planning for America 250 in 2026.
- The director also manages a Heritage Area towards Towson, which is open Thursday through Sunday.

City News / Upcoming Events

- Dumpster Days have been scheduled for 2023 on 3/11, 6/17, 9/23, and 12/16.
- May 7th: I Love SoBo Day from 9 am – 2 pm @ Museum of Industry Pavilion.
- September 9th: Locust Point Festival

Motion and Second to Adjourn the Meeting

- Motion carries with no dissent.
- Reminder: The next LPCA meeting will be May 10th..

Adjourned 8:48 pm