

LPCA General Meeting Minutes - May 10th, 2023

Held at FSK Elementary/Middle School Cafeteria

Preliminaries:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- New Neighbor Introductions
- Treasurer Update:
 - \$65,993 - General Fund
 - \$3,744 - Dog Park
 - \$4,494 - Park Fund
 - The major expenses from the last month were festival, community garden, and park event checks.
 - 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 142 paid memberships. Please renew your membership for 2023.
- April Minutes Review/Vote:
 - The vote to approve the minutes was delayed due to lack of quorum.
 - After quorum was reached, 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.
- There was no BPD Southern District representative in attendance.
- There was no DoT representative in attendance.
- 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 was a cleanup at Latrobe Park. Approximately 50 people attended. They cleaned Locust Point from Lawrence Ave to Fort McHenry. The Parks Committee wishes to thank DPW for disposing of the trash and to all who attended.
- 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.
- 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:

- June 19th is the 6th annual Scramble for the Arts golf outing to benefit Federal Hill Prep Elementary school. They are still looking for players and sponsors.

- As the weather gets nicer kids will be out more. If you see kids in the street or going astray please contact the school.
- Digital Harbor is accepting prom/bridesmaid dresses. Contact the school if you'd like to donate.
- 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:

- Permits have been secured for the LPCA Festival. Please mark your calendars: 9/9/23!
- Summer Concerts: The cost for the first event was quoted at 1.5k and the band would bring their own audio equipment(Sackalee, a New Orleans Jazz band). We need to check the budget. The game plan is to schedule these events for the weekend after the Riverside concerts. Contact Matt if you know interested bands with audio equipment.
- No other updates.

UA Community Garden Updates

- During the garden work days 23 more boxes were added. There are over 108 gardeners this year.
- UnderArmour is selling the property. There are no additional updates. UA has informed the community they will have use of the garden for at least this year.
- Dave will be on the Tom Hall show tomorrow from 12:45-1PM to talk about the garden. They are taking call ins during that time.
- The Community Compost program is ongoing. LPCA members can get a discount on their 1st month's cost. Details are on the website. The program is run through the Baltimore Compost Collective.
- The garden petition is now over 1500 signatures.
- The LPCA Community Survey is active. You can participate by going to the website. The last community plan was done in 2003 and published in 2004. The population of Locust Point has doubled since then. Please participate. We have 404 responses so far. The survey will be open for another week. We plan to review the results at a future meeting and form action plans.
- This Friday from 2-7PM there is a plant sale at the garden with Gene's Green. A portion of the proceeds will go to the garden fund. This sale is open to the entire neighborhood.
- 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:

- The committee received one grant application for a comedy show in Latrobe and is waiting for the applicants to respond to questions.
- 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:

- Please check out the site at <https://www.mylocustpoint.org>.

Dog Park:

- No updates.

New/Old Business

Stevenson/Woodall Construction Status Update

- The sidewalk stage of the development is underway. This will impact traffic for about a week.
- 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.

Elections

- A motion was made to postpone the elections until June and was seconded. The motion was carried with no objections or abstentions.
- There will need to be a quorum present for elections.
- If you are interested in joining the board there are several seats open. Please reach out to the board.

BGE Regulators

- There was no answer from BGE about whether or not Locust Point is on the list to install external gas regulators. BGE is hosting a meeting Monday at 5PM in Little Italy.

Community Announcements

- Stacey Campbell – Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition
 - The Red Line was canceled. The coalition is circulating a petition for a ballot initiative to restore the plan for the Red Line. For more information, visit <https://www.moretransitequity.com>, which shows the proposed route.
 - Question from the floor: The Red Line proposal ran east to west? Does this proposal intersect with that one?

The plan is not formal at this time.

- Question from the floor: Will the proposed Red Line be above ground?

So far, it is supposed to be above ground.

- Question from the floor: What happens with the petition?

If the petition receives enough valid signatures, it becomes a ballot initiative. This

was attempted before, but some of the signatures were deemed invalid.

- Local Marine Corps League

- Ernie Disney is the Chairman of the Board for the Baltimore Marine Veterans who are the Owner/Operators of the Engine 17 Firehouse. He has been a member of the 565 Marine Corp League for the last 20 years. Maryland has 18 detachments. Earl Rump is the commander of the Baltimore Detachment
- They support the Toy for Tots program and provide final honors for servicemen who have passed away without family. They engage in various veteran activities and provide support for veterans in need.
- They sponsor a youth group and are trying to restart a Young Marine group with a focus on leadership development.
- The hall is available for rental for fundraising events, weddings, wakes, and other occasions.
- T-Mobile has upgraded all their service antennas and the building is a relay station for wireless service providers. They are waiting for a part before they finish the painting.
- All are welcome to attend their ceremonies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, at 9 AM sharp at the moment at Latrobe Park.
- They wanted to thank whoever upgraded the flag in the park.
- Question from the floor: How can the LPCA help?

Introductions are great. They were not aware that the LPCA existed.

- Question from the floor: Who does one contact for rental?

The contact numbers are posted on the door.

- The Marine Corp League is open to any branch of the service. Interested individuals can stop by any Wednesday and Saturday. There is also a beautiful military museum located on the second floor.

- Legislative update

- Delegate Luke Clippinger - Chair of the House Judiciary Committee
 - End-of-session letters are available to provide details on what the delegates worked on during the session.
 - There has been an 8-year pilot program for community solar with 90,000 Marylanders joining. A bill that will hopefully be signed next week aims to make this program permanent.
 - There is also an end-of-session letter specific to the bench and bar, addressing the legal professions. Copies of this letter are available.
 - Regarding mental health and the courts, there was a visit to Miami to learn from Dade County's experiences. The goal is to quickly divert individuals in mental health crises to the services they need. The Greater Baltimore Regional Integrated Crisis System (GBRICS) program is expected to be addressed in the next session.
- Delegate Mark Edelson
 - During the legislative session, 800 bills were passed within a period of 90 days, or approximately 3,000 bills in total.

- The delegate was appointed to the House Appropriations Committee, Transportation and Environment Committee, and Personnel Oversight Committee.
- A major focus was placed on the budget process with the aim of securing resources for critical projects.
- An allocation of \$100 million was made to the City of Baltimore for various capital projects, including conventions, greenspaces, schools, and infrastructure.
- Specific grant allocations were made, such as \$400,000 for the Greater Bay Brook Alliance and \$1 million for Squashwise, which aims to convert the old Greyhound station into a squash facility for youth.
- The Fair Fares Act was signed into law, addressing the issue of MTA fares. In 2013, a law was passed that tied MTA fares to inflation, disproportionately affecting low-income riders. The new law decouples fares from inflation and grants the MTA the authority to set fares as it deems appropriate.

○ Questions from the floor:

- What does the Family Medical Leave Act entail?

Neither of the delegates were on that committee, but the purpose is to allow individuals to take leave from work and establish a fund funded by a percentage of state tax revenue. The specific regulations and details are still being developed.

- What would be the impact of the community solar bill on the city?

The community solar bill is intended for people who don't have space for solar panels or are unable to install them. Organizations set up community solar arrays, and individuals can effectively buy a portion of a panel. The kilowatt-hours generated from that panel are credited towards their energy bill. The installation must be within the BGE service area, and there are options available for low-income individuals.

- Is the community solar program private?

While there are many companies involved in the community solar program, now that it is a permanent program, we expect to see the offerings expand.

- Could you summarize some of the gun safety issues?

There were significant discussions surrounding gun safety this year. Senate Bill 1 focused on places where concealed carry is restricted. There was also a bill that prohibits violators of protected orders from obtaining a concealed weapon permit, as well as individuals charged with driving under the influence. We passed legislation related to proper storage of firearms and changed the penalty, shifting from a flat \$1,000 fine to a tiered fine system with accompanying restrictions for a specific period of time. These efforts are connected to the Bruen case, and we have transitioned from a "May Issue" state to a "Shall Issue" state based on objective criteria. We anticipate that this matter will continue to be reviewed by the courts.

- It's Not Over is a Psychiatric Rehabilitation clinic at 1600 Fort Avenue. Ira Johnson is the co-owner. They work with adults and minors who have mental health issues, focusing on teaching life skills. Their approach involves close collaboration with the clients' therapists.

City News / Upcoming Events

- Dumpster Days have been scheduled for 2023 on 6/17, 9/23, and 12/16.
- September 9th: Locust Point Festival
- Nancy Meads - Introduces Corey Jeweler working for Councilman Costello.
- Fort is changing over to their summer hours.

Motion and Second to Adjourn the Meeting

- Motion carries with no dissent.
- Reminder: The next LPCA meeting will be June 14th.

Adjourned 8:39 pm