

LPCA General Meeting Minutes - August 9th, 2023

Held at Marine Corps League Building

Preliminaries:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- New Neighbor Introductions
- Treasurer Update:
 - \$59,155 - General Fund
 - \$3,744 - Dog Park
 - \$3,576 - Park Fund
 - The major expenses from the last month were from the festival.
 - 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 204 paid memberships. Please renew your membership for 2023.
- June 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.
- There was no BPD Southern District representative in attendance.
 - There are some safety concerns being voiced in the various discussion groups.
- 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:

- The date for the October maintenance day will be announced soon.
- August 16th is the next parks committee meeting.
- The longhouse project is moving along slowly. There is a meeting tomorrow with Rec and Parks to discuss an opportunity with Domino Sugars (ASR) to make improvements to the facade of the rec center.
- 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:

- School starts on August 28th.
- The Harris Teeter VIC card started as of August 1st. The program runs until May 31st.
- Visit wearefsk.org for enrollment information, spots will be limited. They are adding a 4th Pre-K class.

- Ms. Pitts will be the interim principal for the 23-24 school year while recruitment and interviews happen for the 24-25 school year.
- 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 Locust Point Festival is on for 9/9/23! (seeking volunteers!)
- The committee is seeking volunteers to help organize and participate in kruschiki cookie making on 8/27.
- Summer Concerts: There was a concert in Latrobe Park in July. Stay tuned for any additional dates. Riverside Park is having a show this Sunday.

UA Community Garden Updates

- There are no updates on Under Armour's planned sale of the garden property.
- Food donations from the garden continue to various organizations.
- There was a long night at the Fort in July (the grounds were open from 6-8 PM). There were about 100 people in attendance. The next long night will be held on August 23rd. NPS will host a presentation at 6:30 on the Star Spangled Banner and the road to the national anthem (meet at the visitors center). The more people show up, the more likely the event will continue in the future. Long nights are open to all.
- Some dead trees were removed by the Fort. They are working to have new trees put in and coordinating with Steinweig, the City, and Blue Water Baltimore.
 - Question from the floor: Was there any damage to the sidewalks?

There was no damage to the sidewalks. Bark Beetles killed the trees.

- Question from the floor: The last kayaking session was canceled due to wind. Is there Any chance it will be rescheduled?

It is an annual event, and they will try for next year.

- Truck cameras will be installed on Fort Avenue to hopefully reduce traffic on Fort Avenue.
- Domino is looking to restart tours of the plant. Be on the lookout for information in the October timeframe.
 - Question from the floor: Have there been any conversations with Domino about the garden?

Supporting the garden is not in their budget or needs.

- 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:

- 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 website at <https://www.mylocustpoint.org>.

Dog Park:

- No updates.

New/Old Business

Elections

- There is one (1) open two-year and one (1) open one-year board positions available.
- Nominations are open for the at-large board information
 - Ben Rooney self nominated for the one-year position and the nomination was seconded.
 - Laurie Fister self nominated for the two-year position and the nomination was seconded.
 - Christopher Sajdak self nominated for the community grant board position and the nomination was seconded.
- The LPCA voted by acclamation to accept the new board.

BGE Regulator Update

- The Public Service Commission (state entity that regulates BGE) is holding a hearing on this issue August 15th. At this time, we do not believe Locust Point is directly affected by this issue. Eric Costello and other members of Baltimore City Council are introducing legislation on August 21st to ban the installation of external gas regulators on buildings with 5 dwellings or less unless a homeowner agrees in writing.

Community Announcements / Guests

- Locust Point Community Church (JoAnn Best): Immigrants House plans
 - The house was constructed in 1904 as a result of outgrowing the original row home.
 - The church opened a museum in 2015 within the Immigrant house.
 - The 2nd and 3rd floors of the building are in a state of severe deterioration.
 - Cornerstone Community Housing, which includes Earl's Place (transitional housing) and Prospect Place (permanent housing), is involved in this project. Sheila Helderson serves as the director for Cornerstone.
 - The mission of this initiative is to provide assistance to men experiencing homelessness.
 - The plan is to transition individuals from Earl's Place to 9 studio apartments. The transitional period at Earl's Place lasts for 2 years. The studio apartments will rent for \$780 per month.

- Dialo Flucas, from the Episcopal Housing Corporation, is also part of this endeavor.
- There will not be on-site staff presence.
- There is a discussion about whether the building's footprint will need to change, primarily concerning increased water supply/waste. Electricity will not require significant modifications. An elevator is proposed to be added to the backside of the building, while the front facade is intended to remain unchanged.
- The focus on serving only men aligns with the mission of the organization.
- The anticipated duration of housing for residents is approximately 3-5 years, with no strict restrictions.
- The application process for the apartments will involve men who have completed the Earl Place program.
- Milestones for residents include securing employment, pursuing education, and obtaining social security benefits.
- Regarding parking or other space concerns, it is noted that none of the current residents have vehicles.
- In terms of progress, architectural drawings have been acquired, but fundraising has not yet commenced.
- The museum and offices within the church are not expected to be significantly affected by this housing initiative.
- There's uncertainty about potential zoning changes, but the church owns the building.
- Funding for the project will be sought through state grants, individual grants, and local funds.
- The discussion will continue next month, and it was mentioned that registered sex offenders will not be accepted.
- There is a crab feast scheduled for September 23rd at Boomie Temple.
- Zero Waste Team & South Baltimore Community Land Trust: informing us about the RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standard – what subsidizes the incinerator in Baltimore); asking LPCA to sign onto a letter to the Senate President with the rest of the City Delegation. They participated in a Zoom meeting about two years ago.
 - Carlos Sanchez is with the South Baltimore Land Trust.
 - RPS, which stands for Renewable Portfolio Standard, was created in 2004 to fund and support renewable energy solutions.
 - The portfolio has expanded to include trash-burning incinerators, which receive funding for being considered renewable.
 - There is ongoing work to get a bill passed that would set higher standards for RPS, aiming to divert funding from incineration to other renewable energy sources.
 - The Zero Waste Team will submit a letter to the community for evaluation for a future vote.
- Digital Bay Center (Colby Smith) – educational incubator with food services coming to 1229 Hull Street (JR's). This group presented last August prior to a liquor board hearing. They have applied for a transfer of the liquor license to another individual within their company in order to allow them more time to finish construction and open. They are coming to us asking for a Letter of Support.
 - They are requesting a live entertainment license, catering, and the ability to serve alcohol.
 - The current license already includes live entertainment.
 - Construction is planned in the next month for roof repairs.
 - A project is underway to provide a survey for input from the community.

- Maurice Alexander, the COO, shared a plan for operating hours:
 - Monday to Thursday: 11 AM - 12 AM
 - Friday and Saturday: 11 AM - 2 AM
 - Sunday: 10 AM - 4 PM (dinner service continues from 4 PM - 10 PM)
- The establishment follows a farm-to-table concept with guest chefs coming in.
- Regarding entertainment, the plan so far includes karaoke, with the goal of maintaining a family-friendly environment.
- Questions were raised about city ordinances on music, and it was mentioned that regulations for decibel levels differ between commercial and residential areas after 9 PM.
- The next hearing is scheduled at the end of the month.
- An MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) would include hours of operation.
- A motion was made to extend the meeting until 9:15, which was seconded and approved.
- There were discussions about food truck options and parking in the lot at presumably Under Armour.
- The possibility of outdoor seating and music was mentioned, including a discussion about an enclosure on the roof.
- It was clarified that the bar will remain on the first floor, with the restaurant on the second and third floors. The establishment also plans to offer Servsafe training and other classes.
- The initial purpose of the meeting was to seek a letter of support regarding hours and the MOU.
- Attendees were invited to meet with the group and community on Thursday the 17th from 6 PM to 8 PM at the 1229 Hull Street location.
- A motion was made to extend the meeting for an additional five minutes and seconded and approved.

City News / Upcoming Events

- Dumpster Days have been scheduled for 2023 on 9/23, and 12/16.
- September 9th: Locust Point Festival

Motion and Second to Adjourn the Meeting

- Motion carries with no dissent.
- Reminder: The next LPCA meeting will be September 13th at Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School.

Adjourned 9:15 pm