

LPCA General Meeting Minutes - September 13th, 2023

Held at Francis Scott Key Elementary-Middle School

Preliminaries:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- New Neighbor Introductions
- Treasurer Update:
 - \$79,349 - General Fund
 - \$3,744 - Dog Park
 - \$3,576 - Park Fund
 - Festival revenue was positive. A more detailed update will be available after reconciliation.
 - 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 was no update on paid memberships. Please renew your membership for 2023.
- August Minutes Review/Vote:
 - A quorum was not present for approval.

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.
- Police Commissioner Meeting
 - No update.
- There was no BPD Southern District representative in attendance.
 - There have been several vehicle thefts and a carjacking in the area (at the end of Lowman Street).
 - The board will reach out to UnderArmour security and Eric Costello for updates and engage with the school.
 - The District 4 September update from BPD indicates there were 4 auto thefts and a few thefts from garages.
- 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 October 9th and 10th Domino's Sugar employees will be rehabbing the exterior of the Latrobe Park Rec Center. They will be working on landscaping, painting, powerwashing, and mulching.
- The flag poles at the Marine Memorial at Fort and Andre were sanded and painted by the Marine Corp League.
- The Fall Park maintenance day will be October 14th from 9AM-noon.

- Regarding the Longhouse Project, things are moving forward slowly. The application for the new roof is going to the MD Historical Trust, which is the last step required by CHAPS before any structural work can be approved.
- During a meeting with Parks and Rec on Monday the MD Historical Trust said they may require the mural to be repainted. The committee is advocating against that.
- The project should go to bid in November.
- Question from the floor: What is the estimate for the roof portion of the roof project?

The committee solicited an informal estimate and due to lead abatement at \$87K if the roof could stay in place. If the beams had to be removed and replaced it would be \$120-140K. There is \$300k in funding for the replacement, the landscaping, the playscape, the drainage system, and adding the gate.

- Any plan to alter the building must go through CHAPS.
- 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 is back in session.
- Harris Teeter VIC card program is open. Everyone is encouraged to check their status on the website. Last year the program raised almost 35K for the school.
- Please keep an eye out for kids as you drive. Also, please notify the school if you see children misbehaving
- 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 festival financial numbers should be ready for the October meeting.
- Tips from this year went to the Belles of Good Counsel.
- ABC Rental did not come with the delivery for tables. The president of the company confirmed they keyed the date wrong. The company refunded the funds and will give a 20% discount for next year.
- The Knight of Columbus, local churches, the Little League, and FSK came through with the tables the morning of the festival. The committee would like to reimburse these organizations for use of their property.
- The Holiday Party will be December 13th in lieu of the meeting. It will be at the Knight of Columbus.

UA Community Garden Updates

- The truck overheight cameras on Fort Street are not being installed due to difficulty in enforcement. The board will continue to work with DoT on resolution.
- Trees were removed on Fort Avenue by the Fort and the city marked spots for 28 new trees. Funding is being worked on (approximately \$12K, which includes maintenance) with local industries.
- Signage for trucks exiting the port for the highway has not moved forward with the city.
- The LPCA had a conversation with Cruise Baltimore & Port Authority regarding the state of the McComas and Key Highway crossing. Cruise MD is taking the issue up with the city.

- The post has extended the lease for the salt piles for another year. The Port is looking for other tenants.
- The long day at the Fort was attended by 250 people. Next year the plan is to have 3 long days over the summer. The Fort is looking to increase attendance. One of the long nights will be June 7th when the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra will be performing.
- A motion was made to extend the meeting by 10 minutes. The motion was seconded and was carried with no abstentions or objections.
- Questions can be directed to locustpointcg@gmail.com.

Communications/Newsletter/Website:

- No updates. Please check the website for more info.
- 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

Key Highway Updates

- Local neighborhood assn will be meeting soon to discuss a new design for key highway, including double bike lanes, increased pedestrian safety measures, and traffic calming elements. Will meet again in October. Contact the board with concerns/comments.

BGE Regulator Update

- PSC sided with the people. BGE can not require a single family home to have an external regulator at this time.

PSC Hearing: BGE Rate increase

- The Public Service Commission is holding a hearing on a BGE Rate increase. Public comments are due by 9/15. (Case No. 9692). Can leave a comment online.

Locust Point Community Church

- The church is seeking a letter of support for the Immigrant House renovations for studio apartments available to men who have completed the Earl's Place program..
- There is no quorum for a vote and the church will return at a later meeting.
- Pastor Ramsey: There was a question about the current zoning of the Immigrant House. It is currently R8 so it is already zoned for this purpose as it allows for multi-family projects. There were also questions regarding the potential impact to property values. The building itself is in acute need of repair.
- Question from the floor: Is there a timeliness to the letter?

Not presently, the project is still in the early stages of looking for support.

- The church is currently collecting school supplies for FSK. Donations can be dropped off at Hull Street Blues during the week or at the church on Sunday morning (through the end of September).

Digital Bay Center Update

- The Digital Bay group had a Liquor Board hearing scheduled that they postponed.
- The LPCa Board is drafting an MOU to bring to the hearing. Anyone with feedback for the MOU please reach out to the board.

Bowley's Lane Composting Facility

- A \$4 million federal grant to put towards developing a solar-powered, scalable composting facility.

Community Announcements / Guests

- Renew Baltimore: Property Tax Charter Amendment
 - Ben Frederick presented to advocate for the ballot initiative to reduce the property tax rate from \$2.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The city revenue from property taxes represented 22% of the total revenue.
 - The group is working to get a vote on a City Charter Amendment that would cap the property tax at \$1.20/\$1,000 of assessed value rate. The proposed amendment would phase in the new rate over 6 years.
 - The text of the charter amendment is available on the Renew Baltimore website (<https://renewbaltimore.org/>).
 - They are soliciting 10,000 registered voters to submit a petition to the Board of Elections as a charter amendment for the next election.
- Zero Waste Team & South Baltimore Community Land Trust
 - The Zero Waste team is asking for the LPCA to sign on to a letter for eliminating incineration from Maryland's Renewable Energy portfolio.
 - There is no quorum for a vote and the item will be tabled until a later meeting.
 - Trash incineration is currently marked as a Tier 1 source in the RPS.
 - The text of the bill is available at <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/SB0616?ys=2022rs>.

City News / Upcoming Events

- Dumpster Days have been scheduled for 2023 on 9/23, and 12/16.
- There is an upcoming public meeting for the Office of Broadband and Digital Equity. Interested parties may attend virtually.
- The Defenders Day parade is this Friday.

Motion and Second to Adjourn the Meeting

- Motion carries with no dissent.
- Reminder: The next LPCA meeting will be October 11th at FSK.

Adjourned 9:04 pm