

LPCA General Meeting Minutes - March 13th, 2024

Held at Francis Scott Key Elementary-Middle School

Preliminaries:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- New Neighbor Introductions
- Treasurer Update:
 - \$58,226 - General Fund
 - \$3,044- Dog Park
 - \$5,713 - Park Fund
 - Expenses this period were negligible.
 - 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 memberships. Please renew your membership for 2024.
- January & February Minutes Review/Vote:
 - A motion was made and seconded to approve the January and February minutes. The motion was carried with no objections or abstentions.

Committee Reports/General Updates

Safety:

- Officer Owens, the BPD Southern District representative was in attendance.
 - Officer Rivera can be reached at Raul.Rivera@baltimorepolice.org.
 - In the last 30 days, there were 57 calls from the area.
 - There was no significant increase in crime, with a 17% decrease in property crime and no change in auto thefts.
 - There were 12 foot patrols in the area, 4 traffic stops, and 8 business visits.
 - Question from the floor:
 - Are the foot patrols new?

It has not been reported on before; this year, there are new statistics being supplied.
 - What time of day are the foot patrols?

The timing varies throughout the period, from daytime to nighttime. Generally, it will be a one-block patrol from their car.
 - Can the 57 calls for service be broken down further?

There were 11 common assaults, 6 property complaints, and 4 reports of destruction of property. However, a further breakdown beyond the top three is not provided.
 - Can you separate domestic calls from incidents on the street?

Specific numbers for domestic incidents are not provided, but in general,

less than half of the calls are domestic in nature. Domestic incidents are considered those between people in a sexual relationship.

- Are these numbers specific to Locust Point?

Yes, these statistics are LP-specific.

- Comment: Andre Street has been closed, and it's the main entrance for trucks. They have been using Hull for egress, and there are concerns about speed. The closure of Andre is expected to continue for another month and a half.

Trucks need an egress with Andre closed. The signage in the area can be checked.

- 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.

Update from Councilman Costello

- A light pole was knocked down by the Little League field. The pole has been removed, and we are waiting for an ETA on replacement.
- In the 1200 blocks of Cooksie, a suspicious vehicle has been looked into.
- On the 1300 block of Haubert, DWP water work needs final restoration in the next few weeks.
- There is a missing stop sign at Steuart and E Clement.
- There is a BGE conduit project at Andre, and new signage has not been effective at reducing safety concerns. Traffic enforcement officers are at the site. They have now closed Andre street altogether. The stop sign is covered by branches. We recommend that the stop sign be moved temporarily into the Right of Way during the construction project. We will revisit the closure with those departments.
- Questions from the floor:
 - Regarding the light pole, this is continually happening. Can it be barricaded or something?

Barricades probably won't work at that location for ADA and space reasons. Possibly a curb bumpout or a reconfiguration.

- On Andre Street, the current setup is blocking the ramp.

Yes, the intersection needs to be revisited.

- Can the work be expedited?

The councilman's office will stay on top of it.

- Comment: Would love more creative solutions for protection for crosswalk.

These are reasonable asks. Working with MD DHDC on a grant for pedestrian safety improvements (Riverside).

- After the meeting last month, is there any update on the church project?

They met on Monday, March 4th and asked for guidance. Relayed that the community needs to be engaged for support. Recommended they re-engage with the board or an LPCA task force to curate a solution.

A note from the LPCA Executive Board. The Church emailed the board for a meeting to address the project and interact with the community. More to come.

- On Fort Avenue there are more stop signs. Can there be more road painting?

The councilman can ask DoT to do that. They have a number of options. Would prefer a traffic signal be installed, but it's a complicated process. It's a top priority as the conduit work ends.

- Are there any Digital Bay Center updates?

Team 46 wrote a letter and their position is clear. Have not heard any update from the group.

- Eight years ago there was a presentation about the 95 redevelopment/redesign. Has anything happened to that?

Exit 54 to Port Covington was part of the TIFF discussion (\$275 million project on projected growth). Port Covington has not grown at that projected rate. Those improvements were part of a FastLane Grant from Fed DoT, but we have not been awarded any of those funds. Expect it to happen in the future for the ramp work and leveling of Hanover Street.

- There are pothole issues in the neighborhood.

Open a 311 ticket and email the councilman the location and ticket number.

- What is the work at the bottom of Woodall and Key?

Emergency plumbing project for several months. Work should be completed in a few weeks. Remediation is on hold until after the work completes.

Parks & Beautification:

- Latrobe Park's daffodils are currently in bloom, so be sure to check them out!
- New trees have been planted along the berm and behind the field, and the Park Committee extends their thanks to Robert and Ellen for their contributions.
- Additionally, a Black Gum tree that had died in the park has been replaced.
- The Earth Day celebration is scheduled for April 21st from 2-4 PM on Sunday.
- For the Spring Maintenance Day on May 19th, which falls on a Sunday afternoon from 2-4 PM, tools and supplies will be provided.
- If you're unable to attend the events but still want to help in the park, please reach out to the board or the parks committee, and they'll coordinate accordingly.
- 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:

- Pasta Pallooza was Saturday - thanks to everyone for their support. The PTO is tallying recipes.
- The 7th annual Scramble for the Art is scheduled for June 17th. Golfers can sign up on Eventbrite.
- 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 2024 Festival will be held on September 14th.
- Letter of Support for LPCA festival 9/14/24

UA Community Garden Updates

- No Update. We are still waiting on the plan from the city for containments.
- Questions can be directed to locustpointcg@gmail.com.

Communications/Newsletter/Website:

- Please check out mylocustpoint.org for information and opportunities.
- 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**Utility Work at Fort & Andre**

- The ongoing work is related to a conduit project, needed for the reconstruction of a manhole.
- It is scheduled to last 50 working days; with no rain/snow delays it will be done around April 17th.

Election Judges

- Election judges are needed for the Primaries: Tuesday, May 14, 2024. See <https://mylocustpoint.org/> for more information.

City Council President Candidates: Shannon Sneed & Zeke Cohen

- Unable to attend: Nick Mosby (incumbent), Emmanuel Rigsby
- Each candidate made a 5 minute speech introducing themselves and their platform.
- Shannon Sneed - Council Representative from 2016-2020
 - Questions from the floor:

- What plans are in place to grow the population?

Public safety and quality of life concerns, such as trash, recycling, and other issues, are driving people away. We need to focus on schools to ensure they are not contributing to the decision to leave. We're looking into Boston as an example.

- How do you plan to collaborate with the council? What's your strategy?

I've had a good relationship with the council in the past due to my previous experience sitting on it. We maintain an open-door policy.

- Are you studying Boston and property taxes? What do you think of the proposed city charter amendment?

All options should be considered, and we want to evaluate every possible solution. Boston successfully lowered taxes and increased its population, so we should explore replicating their approach.

- Zeke Cohen - Council Representative for the 1st District

- Questions from the floor:

- How do you plan to work with the council members?

Response: I aim to manage the council body collaboratively, with each of the 14 district representatives leading and collaborating on specific areas.

- Do you believe the council plays a role in Recreation and Parks?

Not every community has an active committee to facilitate. The council should work closely with Recreation and Parks to support and hold them accountable. For example, the pools should never be closed during the summer.

City News / Upcoming Events

- Elections! We have invited all Mayoral Candidates to our April meeting. (4/10/24). Confirmed attendees: Wendy Bozel, "Uncle Wayne" Baker, Donald Scoggins, Mizz Texas Brown, Thiru Vignarajah.
- Dumpster Days 2024: 5/4, 8/24, 11/2. The dumpster is normally dropped at Fort & Andre around 8 am Saturday and is there until full.

- March 16th 9 am – 4 pm: Send Silence Packing, a mental health storytelling exhibit will be open in Latrobe Park. The event is free and open to the public. There will be (limited) free food from La Cosette in the morning, and (limited) free pizza from Limoncello in the afternoon.
 - The event was funded through a 10K grant.
 - People with questions or concerns can reach out to the organizers.
 - The event is for the neighborhood.
- Join Team FSK for the Baltimore Running Festival: October 19, 2024 – as a runner or a volunteer! See our website for more details.
- May 8th is our Annual Meeting where we hold LPCA board elections. Ten of our positions are up for election this year; the election process will be discussed in more detail at the April meeting.

Community Announcements / Guests

- There were no additional announcements or guests.
- There was a suggestion to add a message to consider donating items instead of disposing of them when the LPCA advertises the dumpster dates.

Motion and Second to Adjourn the Meeting

- Motion was made and seconded.
- Reminder: Our next meeting is April 10, 2024.

Adjourned 8:44 pm