

LPCA General Meeting Minutes - May 8th, 2024

Held at Francis Scott Key Elementary-Middle School

Preliminaries:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- New Neighbor Introductions
- Treasurer Update:
 - \$58,059 - General Fund
 - \$3,744 - Dog Park
 - \$5,713 - Park Fund
 - There are outstanding checks for the tree projects and the Earth Day event.
 - 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.
- April Minutes Review/Vote:
 - The April minutes were available online but were not available in printed form for this meeting so approval will be voted on in the June meeting.

Committee Reports/General Updates

Safety:

- No BPD Southern District representative was in attendance.
 - Officer Rivera can be reached at Raul.Rivera@baltimorepolice.org.
- There was no DoT representative in attendance.
 - A new crosswalk is to be installed at Richardson & Fort. Look out for a temporary installation to be replaced by a permanent fixture later this year. Thank you to community member Shannon Mangiameli for requesting this crosswalk!
- 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:

- This year's Earth Day cleanup broke the record for number of volunteers. Thank you to all who attended.
- The Labtrobe Park Spring Maintenance Day will be held on 5/19 from 2-4 PM. Volunteers should meet at the entrance to the park. Equipment will be supplied.
- The USA flag is missing. All flags in city parks are in the process of being replaced. There is no date for replacement yet.
- There were large piles of tree limbs in the park. They were trimmed by someone without permission. They have been cleaned up. If you see something that needs to be repaired in the park, call 311.
 - Question: Is that considered vandalism?
Yes, if you know who did it.
- 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:

- 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 jirs10132007@gmail.com.

Social:

- The 2024 Festival will be held on September 14th.

UA Community Garden Updates

- Parks and Recreation collected soil samples from behind the school and around the park for testing. Results are pending and will be sent to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to create a mitigation plan if necessary. The process is expected to take at least 3-4 months, after which community engagement will follow.
- The Compost Collective program is restarting. LPCA members can receive a discount on the service. Details are available from Dave.
- There are 3 Long Dates scheduled at the Fort this summer:
 - On 6/7, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) will perform; time not yet confirmed. This will be a fundraiser for those affected by the FSK Bridge.
 - On 7/17, there will be a game night. The fort will be closed, but bathrooms will be open.
 - On 8/21, there will be park programming with a possible painting event.
- The Director of the Fort will attend the next meeting.
- In collaboration with Living Classrooms and Project SERVE, 28-38 trees will be planted by the Fort on 5/18. Volunteers are needed, and a signup form is available. The event will take place in the morning, likely around 9 AM.
 - Question: Are there any concerns about the cicadas?

There is no specific plan.

- 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:

- Grant awarded (\$350) to Hap & Cheryl for Latrobe Spring Clean Up Day 5/19.
- Grant awarded (\$400) to Alex Baglione for U-Haul rental. During the 8/24 and 11/2 dumpster days, Alex will have a U-Haul available for people to put useful, donate-worthy items in. They will then be delivered to a local non-profit for use.
- 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**

- The floor was opened for the position of President. Molly Miller was nominated and seconded. Nominations for President were closed. A motion to vote by acclamation was made and seconded. Molly was elected by acclamation.
- The floor was opened for the position of Vice President. Caitlin Reagan was nominated and seconded. A motion to vote by acclamation was made and seconded. Caitlin was elected by acclamation.
- The floor was opened for the position of Treasurer. Bijal Dharia was nominated and seconded. A motion to vote by acclamation was made and seconded. Bijal was elected by acclamation.
- The floor was opened for the position of Corresponding Secretary. Michelle Andres was nominated and seconded. A motion to vote by acclamation was made and seconded. Michelle was elected by acclamation.
- The floor was opened for the position of Recording Secretary. Kristofer Quinn was nominated and seconded. A motion to vote by acclamation was made and seconded. Kristofer was elected by acclamation.
- The position of at-large board member is general, and all current board members are willing to continue, but new candidates are encouraged. Details are available on the website.
- Andrew Pinsky was nominated and seconded and introduced himself to the community. Justin Grossman, Ginny Rajnes, Ben Rooney, Rachel Repkorwich, and John Shea were also nominated and seconded. The officer board was accepted by acclamation.

Utility Work at Fort & Andre

- The ongoing work is related to a conduit project, needed for the reconstruction of a manhole.
- It was originally scheduled to last 50 working days; with no rain/snow delays it will be done around April 17th. The project is behind schedule and will take 15-20 more working days.
- Work will continue for another 4 weeks due to water entering the site and causing delays. The LPCA will provide updates as it gets more information.

Digital Bay

- No updates.

Immigrant House

- The developers reached out to the board for a meeting and the board has asked what they want to discuss.

Our Lady of Good Counsel

- The Baltimore Catholic Diocese is looking to close the location. The church approached the board for a letter of support in their effort to remain open.
- The letter was read into the record.
- Question: Are we coming up with a way to help support?

LPCA is not aware of why the Diocese is closing the location. The aim of the letter is to inform the dioceses of this

- Question: Did the church step up and put a temporary kitchen for Barracudas, could that be mentioned?

That can be mentioned.

- Question: Church attendance is over 200 every weekend, can we mention that specifically in the letter?

That can be mentioned.

- A motion was made to send the letter of support to Our Lady of Good Counsel and was seconded. The motion carried with 24 voting in favor, and 2 voting in opposition. The Letter of Support will be amended and posted on the website for community review.
- The current zoning of the parcel is R-8.

UA Transition Taskforce

- The LPCA is creating an UnderArmour/Tide Point transition team. A sale of that property could happen this year or perhaps next year.
- A meeting will be held on 5/21 at 6PM in the conference room at the McHenry Row (old Philips building). Food and drinks will be provided.
- The goal is to consider how to advocate for community interests. Any experience in urban development, land use, or zoning experience would be useful.
- The team plans to meet quarterly.
- Please email contact@mylocustpoint.org if you are interested.
- Question: Can this be messaged on FB?

Yes.

- Question: Can we look at the Silo Point development?

The board has reached out to several people who were on the board at that time and are inviting them to the meeting.

- Question: Have other community associations going through the same thing?

The board can reach out but is not sure if there are comparable sites.

Maryland Port Authority's proposed air quality improvement projects with the EPA Clean Ports Program

- There is a request from the MD Port Administration for a Letter of Support from the LPCA for a Grant application to receive federal money for Climate and Air Quality Planning and Zero-Emission Technology Deployment
 - This program is designed to help our nation's ports to address public health and environmental impacts on surrounding communities.
 - The LPCA reached out to the Longshoremen's Association and they are in support of the project as well.
- A motion was made to provide a letter of support. The motion was carried with no objections or abstentions.

Team 46 Legislative Update

- Senator Bill Ferguson
 - Team 46 works closely with Councilman Costello. An end-of-session letter is available detailing the over 3,000 bills that were passed.
 - The Key Bridge incident significantly impacted the last 16 days of the session. The Port Act was passed to recognize and support those affected by the tragedy, including state scholarships for the children of road workers. Funds are available to support those at the port and businesses affected by the shipping lane closure until the channel is clear. Initial estimates for the closure were six months, but a temporary channel was opened in 20 days, with a 50-foot channel expected by the end of the month.
 - Other major issues included the budget, which was \$1 billion less than last year. There was also a focus on crime and safety, particularly concerning auto theft and firearm crimes involving young people. Emphasis was placed on coordination between state, local, and federal executive agencies.
- Delegate Mark Edelson
 - The delegate is a member of the Appropriations (Budget) Committee.
 - It has been a tough budget year due to a revenue shortfall, necessitating cuts. Baltimore City was a major focus of the budget allocations.
 - Key budget allocations include:
 - \$90 million for the Education Blueprint, aimed at hiring and retaining teachers, expanding universal pre-K, and providing student support.
 - \$230-\$330 million for the transportation system, which will fund capital programs, street calming measures, and crosswalks.
 - \$105 million for state trauma centers, including shock trauma.
 - \$95 million for housing initiatives, which will support programs like the CORE program (for demolishing vacant properties) and BURNIE (for neighborhood rebuilding).
- Delegate Luke Clippinger
 - The delegate is the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee.
 - An end-of-session letter is available, and interested parties can email his office for a copy.
 - Recent changes were made to the Juvenile Justice legislation passed in 2022 to address subsequent issues. There is now increased oversight of the Commissions on Juvenile Justice reforms. The Department of Juvenile Services is required to provide timely plans for individuals in the system, including tracking and reporting.

- There has been a rise in the use of auto sears/switches, which allow Glock handguns to be modified from semi-automatic to fully automatic by removing a safety mechanism. This is particularly concerning as children are finding these modified weapons.
- Legislation now requires the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to provide luggage for foster children transitioning between families, instead of using trash bags.
- Digital Bay Update
 - As part of the liquor board bill, a provision was added to prohibit the transfer of a liquor license when bond funds are owed on the property in the 24th ward.
- Questions from the floor:
 - Question: Does that mean they couldn't transfer the license?

Bond funding is attached to the building. There is a provision that the bond funding on the building prohibits a liquor license. This provision sunsets after a year.
 - Question: How do we make sure that it doesn't happen again?

Systems are in place, but the program was over-capitalized. The evaluation and audit process was not fully implemented but has since been re-evaluated.
 - Question: Are you considering changing the rules to offer an avenue to reclaim the money?

There have been conversations with the Comptroller. A lien was not placed on the building before, but changes to the process are being considered.
 - Question: What happens if the property is left unused for a year?

The issue would be revisited in a year.
 - Question: Has there been any follow-up conversations with the group?

Before the session, options were discussed (realigning with the grant application, returning the funds). There has been continued effort to move the licenses forward on the part of the owners.
 - Question: What happens if they try to move the property/licenses to a third party?

If there was a lien on the property, it would be removed during a sale.
 - Question: Would the state be able to help if a new party shows interest?

Clarity would be needed on what is planned and how the provision would affect them.
 - Question: What is the vetting process?

This program was part of an initiative to increase entrepreneurship. It came with recommendations and evaluations.

- Question: Are there changes coming to the program oversight? The community feels strongly there should be.

There are ongoing discussions about improving oversight.

- Question: Are reviews coming for previous projects?

The legislative body conducts audits of all agencies. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) previously had no audit authority over this funding but does now. Typical funding amounts are much smaller; federal money entered the program in 2022, complicating the process.

- Question: Digital Harbor is the South Baltimore high school, but there is no good pathway from FSK to that high school. From a state perspective, what can be done to make Digital Harbor a keystone school?

There is a specific program regarding street improvements for walkable, bikeable routes to and from schools. Digital Harbor has made progress, but there is still a long way to go. The CTE program is there, and the new principal has been communicative. There is always more work to be done for schools.

- **A motion to extend the meeting for 15 minutes was made and seconded.**
- Comment: The significance of the response to the FSK Bridge disaster in the last month cannot be overstated. Thank you to the delegation for their coordination efforts.
- Question: Has the governor signed the juvenile bills yet?

It was announced that he will sign them on the 16th.

City News / Upcoming Events

- The Baltimore City primary election is May 12, 2024.
 - You can vote early now.
 - In 2022, only 28% of Baltimore City voters cast ballots in the primary election. Please vote!
- Dumpster Days 2024: 8/24, 11/2. The dumpster is normally dropped at Fort & Andre around 8 am Saturday and is there until full.
- Park Clean up : May 15th

Community Announcements / Guests

- There were no additional announcements or guests.
- There is a neighborhood garage sale this week in the alleys of Lowman and Decatur.
- Update from Councilman Costello: There will be a speed hump installed on the 1500 block of Decatur street. The office is working with the Department of Transportation for the timing during school drop off and pickup.

Motion and Second to Adjourn the Meeting

- Motion was made and seconded.
- Reminder: Our next meeting is June 12th, 2024.

Adjourned 8:59 pm