

LPCA General Meeting Minutes - September 11th, 2024

Held at Francis Scott Key Elementary-Middle School

Preliminaries:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- New Neighbor Introductions
- Treasurer Update:
 - There was no update to the LPCA balances this meeting
 - 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.
- May & August Minutes Review/Vote:
 - A motion to approve the May minutes was second and approved.
 - A motion to approve the April minutes was second and approved.

Committee Reports/General Updates

Safety:

- Major Bennett was present from the BPD
 - Major has been here since last August.
 - Focus on violent crime for the last year. Sometimes has a tendency to force crime out of the target areas into adjacent areas.
 - His primary focus over the past year has been on addressing violent crime, although there has been a noted tendency for crime to shift from target areas to adjacent neighborhoods as a result of this effort.
 - Crime has decreased by 53% overall. Specific reductions include auto theft (down from 15 to 9), larceny (13 to 8), and larceny auto (10 to 1). Aggravated assaults are up slightly to 1, while there have been no commercial robberies, rapes, shootings, or homicides year-to-date.
 - In the last 28 days: 1 aggravated assault & 1 larceny
 - Question: What are the boundaries?
 - The area covers past Woodall Street to Riverside, excluding shoppers. It includes 28 neighborhoods. The Baltimore Community Intelligence Center (BCIC) room was established in June to aid intelligence-led policing during daily patrols. Cameras have been used to track suspects, leading to arrests, including following an attempted murder suspect to their home.
 - Two new trainees are starting, and three more are set to graduate soon. The department is restructuring to reassign more officers to patrol duties by the end of the year. Recruitment is also increasing this year.
 - Residents with Ring cameras are encouraged to sign up for the City Watch camera program. This allows the police to quickly assess if there is potential evidence after a crime, possibly aiding in obtaining warrants more efficiently.
 - The Gun Violence Team will be coming to the Southern District by the end of the year. Their focus will be on gang-related violence and repeat offenders.

- These efforts have contributed to a 40% reduction in crime year-over-year, including significant reductions in property crime.
- The Southern District has been redistricted and is now the largest in the city since last year.
- Question: Is there tracking of 911 calls that were not responded to?
 - Calls are now redirected to the Telephone Reporting Unit (TRU) for incidents that do not require an officer's presence. This is to free up time for actionable crimes. The policy used to be to respond to absolutely everything, leading to time spent going to non-actionable calls instead of responding to actionable crime (ex. a hit and run with no witness). Diverted calls are not tracked. The 911 operator is not the BPD dispatcher, and there was no immediate answer on the 911 tracking issue.
 - Follow up Question: How should feedback be directed?
 - Inquiries can be sent to the Neighborhood Service Unit for responses.
 - Follow up Question: Who is the contact at the Neighborhood Service Unit?
 - Sgt. Rivera is the point of contact and can be reached via email. At times there was one officer serving around 20 communities, but there is now additional personnel. You may follow up via text as calls are often missed. Major Jason Bennett can also be contacted at his email: jason.bennett@baltimorepolice.org.
 - Follow up Question: What should be done when witnessing drug activity?
 - Call 911 with detailed descriptions of the individuals involved (clothing, behavior, etc.). Officers, under the current consent decree, must witness the activity in person or on video to take action.
 - Follow up with Sgt. Rivera, who can relay information to the drug unit.
- Question: How is the department handling turnover and communication delays?
 - There was turnover during the summer, leading to some communication delays. Post officers will introduce themselves at a future meeting.
- Comment: An attendee had sent an email a month ago and followed up several times regarding an incident on Haubert Street.
 - The officers will follow up after the meeting.
- Question: Are there routine patrols by the BPD in Locust Point (LP) on a daily basis?
 - Yes, patrols occur daily. If specific patterns of crime at particular times or days are identified, the department can take proactive measures.
- Comment: There have been instances where 911 calls are made, but an officer never arrives to gather information as the operator promised.
- Comment: There are concerns about UnderArmour vacating their facility by the end of the year. Specifically, that vacant buildings may become gathering spots for unwanted activity. A meeting will be arranged with UnderArmour's security to discuss this.
- Comment: A long-term resident of 20 years expressed gratitude for the prompt and professional response of the police.
- Question: Are patrol cars marked? Yes, patrol cars are marked and often stationed by the rec center at least once a day.
- Introduction of Officers:
- Officer Rivera – Has been with the BPD for 18 years, with a total of 32 years in law enforcement. Previously assigned to the Western District and currently serves as a

Neighborhood Coordination Officer (NCO). The team was recently restaffed, and Officer Rivera encourages anyone who hasn't received a response to an inquiry within a few days to reach out. He coordinates community walks and works with other city agencies.

- Detective Dominique Wiggins – Previously served in the Southeastern District after working in the Southern District. If Sgt. Rivera is unavailable, you can contact Detective Wiggins at dominique.wiggins@baltimorepolice.org.
- Officer James Washington – Has served as an officer for 32 years. You can contact him at james.washington@baltimorepolice.org.
- 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 flag at Latrobe Park is finally up after 10 months. It will be raised at the festival on Saturday.
- Today, a walkthrough was conducted with Dr. Moore and his team. Several improvements are planned for the park over the next few months/year, including new turf for the field and dog park, resurfacing of the tennis court with new asphalt, installation of new nets, and upgraded lighting.
- "What's Out There Weekend" in Baltimore is scheduled for September 22nd. The event will take place across the city, offering exclusive tours that are not normally available. One of the tours is a walk through Latrobe Park on September 22nd from 12-1 PM. Sign-ups are available on their website.
- The Fall Maintenance Day will be held on Sunday, October 20th, from 2-4 PM.
- 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:

- There will be a Kids Zone at the Latrobe Festival. Volunteers are still needed, and participation qualifies for service hours for middle school students.
- Harris Teeter has changed the VIC Card Program for School Year 24-25. Individuals need to sign themselves up for the HT Plug Membership. Please reach out to John for assistance linking cards at jjrs10132007@gmail.com.

Social:

- The 2024 Festival is scheduled for September 14th, from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The event will feature:
 - Beer, food, and crushes
 - Live music performances every hour
 - Local restaurants
 - Over 50 vendors

UA Community Garden Updates

- On Friday, there will be a parade through the neighborhood starting at 7:00 PM.
- On Saturday, a shuttle service will operate between 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM, facilitating transportation to and from Defender Day activities.
- The fireworks and concert will begin at 7:00 PM, with the concert taking place first, followed by the fireworks.

- The Sheriff's Department will be on-site to direct traffic after the fireworks at Fort and Andre streets. They will also be present at the festival for general assistance.
- The last Fort Long Day event was held on August 21st and was deemed a success, with over 60 painters in attendance. Coordination with the Fort will continue for next year's event. Additionally, T. Rowe Price organized an event for Wounded Warrior on the same evening, which attracted over 400 attendees.
- Regarding the garden soil testing, there has not yet been an official report from the city. Cheryl has indicated that preliminary results show no major issues, although the formal report is still forthcoming.
- 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

Digital Bay

- Fire happened. No updates.

Immigrant House

- No updates.

UA Transition Taskforce

- Tide Point Taskforce: we will be meeting MONDAY, September 16, 2024, at either 7 p.m., to continue to discuss the UA transition. 1215 East Fort Avenue.
 - Please email Contacts@mylocustpoint.org if you would like to participate.
 - Agenda: we are reviewing the PUD (zoning) restrictions and making recommendations if we want to keep / alter / replace the restriction for the future /

modified PUD. The PUD is five pages; we hope to review the entirety of the PUD in one meeting but it may be spread over the next two meetings.

- Please email contacts@mylocustpoint.org if you would like to participate. The next meeting will be in August (date TBD).

Pfefferkorn Parcel Development

- This is not happening. Pfefferkorn is staying a coffee roaster to our knowledge.

Church Information

Get from Molly

Robert Stewart (Acting Park Superintendent of Fort McHenry)

- The director was not able to attend this month.

City News / Upcoming Events

- Free Thursday Community Run: Join Locust Point resident Matt Craig and BMore Running for a group run! We meet at Harry's Bar Thursday's at 6:30 p.m.; choose your own distance. Stay after the run for drink specials and socialization!
- Dumpster Days 2024: 11/2. The dumpster is normally dropped at Fort & Andre around 8 am Saturday and is there until full.
- Join Team FSK for the Baltimore Running Festival: October 19, 2024 – as a runner or a volunteer! See our website for more details.

Community Announcements / Guests

- Q: Any news on the Immigrant House?

No updates

Motion and Second to Adjourn the Meeting

- Motion was made and seconded.
- Reminder: Our next meeting is October 9th, 2024.

Adjourned 8:43 pm