

LPCA General Meeting Minutes - March 12th, 2025

Held at FSK Elementary-Middle School

Preliminaries:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- New Neighbor Introductions
 - Angela and Rob are opening Bodega y Vino at 1121 Hull Street (Serenity), which will be a wine bar with a bodega. The concept is inspired by a New York-style bodega, offering fresh bread, olive oil (similar to DePasquale's), and a welcoming space for the community. The goal is to open on April 15th, with planned hours of 7 AM – 9 PM, Monday through Saturday.
 - Good to Great restaurant has opened in the former 1157 location. They are offering cocktails for now. They are currently interviewing chefs to develop a small plate menu with a focus on local ingredients. Their approach is to start small and gradually evolve the establishment. Hours: 3 PM – 12 AM, Tuesday – Saturday
 - Question: Will you be bringing back the outdoor tables?
 - Answer: They are unsure and are working with the councilman to explore available options.
- Treasurer Update:
 - Most account activity is related to paying deposits for the festival.
 - \$71,298 - General Fund
 - \$3,744 - Dog Park
 - \$8,892 - Park Fund
 - 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
- Please renew your membership for 2025.
- February Minutes Review/Vote:
 - Minutes were made available online.
 - A motion to approve the February minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports/General Updates

Safety:

- A BPD Southern District representative was in attendance.
 - Detective Wiggins was in attendance and reported no larceny or violent crime in the last reporting period.
 - Lt. Jackson, new to the Southern District, will be rotating shifts.
 - Comment: There are concerns about the increasing frequency and speed of 18-wheelers driving down a non-truck route. Andre Street is currently closed and will remain so until the 25th, which may be diverting truck traffic. There is a request for truck route enforcement.

Response: It was suggested that partnering with the Transportation Authority could provide assistance.

- Question: With the weather changing and extra evening daylight, will there be an increased police presence?

Answer: Normal post calls operate within the area and rotate as needed. If there are specific hotspots, officers can be redirected. Please report any concerns.

- Comment: Due to the lack of reported incidents in the area, we often do not see officers regularly. It would be beneficial to have a more consistent police presence.
- Question: UA was patrolling with private security, but since they vacated, patrols have become far less frequent. What plans or discussions have you had to address issues with the property being vacant?

Response: Need to have a conversation with the Captain and provide an update.

- Question: There is a damaged or stolen car sitting on the UA lot for about three months. Can something be done about this area?

Officer's Question: Are these concerns throughout the neighborhood or specific to this area?

Response: Both, but the primary concern is about the UA property being vacant.

- Question: Dirt bikes will be picking up, any plans?

There is an initiative in the area due to an increase in stolen cars in Pigtown.

- Comment: There are still two operating businesses in Tide Point. People onsite during the workday is likely due to them.
- Question: Last weekend, there was an incident at Hat Mart. Any info?

No formal update yet. One juvenile may have been apprehended. Can follow up?

- Question: Is Sgt. Rivera still the contact?

Yes.

- Officer Rivera can be reached at Raul.Rivera@baltimorepolice.org.

- Sheriff Hogan was in attendance.

- The Sheriff's team provided security for the LPCA festival, and they have been wonderful to work with.
- What is the difference between Sheriff and Police? Police report to the mayor, while the Sheriff is elected. Sheriffs have both civil and criminal authority. They assisted with traffic enforcement during drop-off and pickup, issuing warnings. They also work warrants (such as violation of probation or failure to appear) and handle interpersonal and domestic violence cases.
- Department members Shannon and Kevin were in attendance to sign people up for the Sheriff's newsletter.

- If you know of domestic violence situations, you can come down to the courthouse to swear out a protective or peace order. The department can confiscate firearms in domestic issues. This would involve the Sheriff's office and officers.
- Evictions and foreclosures: The department has worked with social workers and charities to bridge services during these events and connect people with resources. They would prefer to address these issues before the point of eviction.
- There has been a large increase in squatters and fraud schemes (such as breaking lockboxes and renting out properties). There is currently a bill in the council to provide the tools needed to expedite court proceedings in these situations.
- Question: We have some issues with commercial trucks. Can the Sheriff's Department help?

Yes, but not all the time. We can do targeted enforcement. Please get in touch.

- Question: Do you drive cars that are designated, and could you swing through on patrols (i.e. help clear double-parked cars)?

We do have a deputy sheriff who drives a marked car in the area, but there isn't a high rate of warrants and evictions. However, we can coordinate for more of a visible presence.

- 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:

- There is a lot of refuse in the street due to the spring winds. Please consider picking up around your block.
- A lot of tree work was done in Latrobe Park, and they are accepting ideas for tree additions and upkeep.
- There will be a meeting tomorrow at 6 PM at the park to inspect the recent trimmings. All are welcome to join.
- April 27th: Earth Day Cleanup (whole neighborhood, park, and school grounds included). Sign-up will be posted on the website. The event will take place Sunday from 1-4 PM. Tools will be provided, and refreshments will be served.
- The LP Litter Committee will be sponsored by LPCA.
- Question: Is there any update on the Key Highway to McComas cleanup?

The Litter Committee may be organizing. I will follow up.

- Question: Is there a place to gather downed branches?

Group them on a prominent corner and call 311.

- 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 school is having its Title 1 funding cut by approximately \$250k and is looking to reduce a teaching position.

- Harris Teeter is no longer donating back to schools for VIC card users. You must register for the Harris Teeter delivery service to earn a \$10 credit back to your school.

Social:

- The Locust Point Festival is on 9/13/2025. We will be looking for shopping vendors and restaurants for food, with a focus on neighbors and 21230 businesses.

UA Community Garden Updates:

- Garden Update
 - Rec and Parks have received the soil test results. It will take multiple weeks to release them.
- Banner Project
 - Thank you to those who submitted ideas to the banner project questionnaire (270 survey responses).
 - The most popular responses were:
 - Latrobe Park: 65%
 - Ft. McHenry: 62%
 - Waterfront/Tide Point: 44%
 - Restaurants: 46%
 - Ms. Twist and Ice Queens: 8%
 - A design group will create about 8 banners to present to the board, after which a vote will be held with the community.
 - A street survey will then be conducted to determine the number and locations of the banners.
 - Vendors will need to be selected, and work will be done with the city on the approval and installation process. Fundraising will also be required.
 - Stay tuned for the survey next month.
- 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.

LPCA Website:

- Please check out the website at <https://www.mylocustpoint.org>.

New/Old Business

Digital Bay Update

- The property is being readied for sale.

Tide Point Taskforce

- The Design Review Committee is listed in our bylaws. Headed by Dave, it is newly active.
- Tide Point Taskforce appointment
 - The Tide Point Taskforce will be active throughout the length of the Tide Point transition.
 - The Taskforce is empowered to negotiate with developers and pertinent city and or state officials with relation to the Tide Point parcel on behalf of the community.
 - Any agreement reached by the Tide Point Taskforce will be voted on by the community at a general meeting.
 - A motion was made to empower the task force, seconded, and passed unanimously.
- Tide Task Force meeting next Wednesday at 7 PM – the discussion will focus on how the PUD may be modified. It could be amended to change the zoning within the PUD or remove the property entirely from the PUD. The task force will work on items to negotiate with the developer.
- The Design Review Committee will meet on the 20th to come up with a counterproposal to the one presented by the developers.
- Once both items are in place, we will request a meeting with the developer.
- The Tide Point Task Force is open to all.
- The Design Review Task Committee currently consists of 13 volunteers. If you're interested, please visit the LPCA website, where there is a survey to sign up for the design review team.
- Question: How is he planning on bringing down the building in the development and addressing rat abatement? There are concerns about the foundation of the houses.

That was not asked, but we can reach out and address it with him.

Comment: The Cheer Building has been occupied and should not be home to as many rats during demolition. The Cheer Building is largely a metal shed that can be pushed over. The contractor has specific city, state, and federal requirements for controlling the demolition and addressing the foundation.

Comment: In the Goodier developments, there were negotiations for monitoring noise and vibration. We can consider these factors in our discussions.

- Comment: The height restrictions for R8 changed between when it was created and now.
- Please email contacts@mylocustpoint.org if you would like to participate.

Community Announcements / Guests

- Question: In 15 months, it will be the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Are there any plans?

Fort McHenry typically celebrates the War of 1812, and they have engaged with us regarding their activities. Fort McHenry is starting programming in 2026, with a full year of events planned. However, they have already lost 6 members and expect to lose more. Things are on hold until staffing levels are settled. The Fort has a new superintendent, and we are hoping to have her at an upcoming meeting.

- Question: Were there any updates on the Type 1 Diabetes walk in Latrobe?

No updates on a potential walk in the park. They were asked to plan for participant parking.

Motion and Second to Adjourn the Meeting

- Motion was made and seconded.
- Our next meeting is April 9, 2025.

Adjourned 8:40 pm