

# January 2026 General Meeting Minutes

**Call to order: 7:40 p.m.; approx. 40 attendees**

## **Introduction of new residents: 2**

- Business owner: Thrive Sanctuary on Fort Ave grand opening this Saturday, Jan. 17

## **Membership report (Jamie)**

- 35members plus 19 members who signed up tonight
- We will focus heavily on driving increased membership this year – we want to see the room filled regularly and will steer efforts to engage the unengaged please talk to Jamie Sexton if you want to be involved in our membership outreach programs

## **November 2025 minutes review and vote**

- Pushed to Feb b/c we don't have a paper version

## **General & committee updates**

- **Safety (Matt)**
  - **McComas under 95**
    - LPCA believes the walkway at the underpass of 95 on McComas is super dangerous and guaranteed to injure someone
    - We've been pushing the issue to the Mayor's office/DOT, the State, Port Covington/Balt Peninsula, etc.
    - Everyone agrees it's unsafe but no one is taking ownership - there are many factors (expense, complex, etc.)
    - LPCA is encouraging residents to submit tickets to 311 and send the tracking number to [Contacts@mylocustpoint.org](mailto:Contacts@mylocustpoint.org)
    - Molly is drafting a letter to the City citing it as "dangerous" b/c it is not marked effectively which initiates liability
    - We are advocating and will continue
  - **Recent Under Armour break-in**
    - Nothing of major value was stolen, but it is a reminder to remain vigilant and aware
  - **Porch Pirate Arrest made!** (blue Ford) hope it's a felony; if you made a report, please show up in court and/or provide victim impact statements
    - Large coordinated effort among Locust Point, Federal Hill and Riverside
  - If you see lights out, please report to 311 – look up
- **Parks (Cheryl note)**
  - Please clean gutters in front of your house
- **Treasurer (Bijal)**

- General \$67,817.17 (dog park: \$3311; park \$3876.72) Of the general fund, \$11,000 is allocated to the Community Garden and \$4,919 is allocated to the Street Banner Project
- Starting year in a good position – festival successful; donations, etc.
- 2026 budget: line-item review – very similar to last year
  - Questions:
    - How to submit ideas?
      - Community Grant Program! Application on LPCA website ([www.mylocustpoint.org](http://www.mylocustpoint.org))
    - \$10k gap?
      - We go in with a conservative estimate to allow for loss (every year we end in the positive, allowing for more discretionary spending)
      - Permitting and park fees have gone up exponentially
      - Remember that we are starting with a starting balance of almost \$68K so if we are on budget, we will end the year with a \$58K surplus
  - Motion to approve the budget: unanimously approved
- **Education/schools**
  - **Annual giving campaign** raised ~\$75,000 (goal %65) for the school toward programming; THANK YOU!
  - **Budget process** – 2<sup>nd</sup> of 4 phases this past Tuesday night; it doesn't look great; a lot of cuts – looking for ideas and solutions, not just checks
  - **Fields:** Parks & Recs have committed to redoing the softball field in time for Spring use – it needs a lot of work; Little League also involved and proposing to fix the field \$40-50,000; Parks & Recs says FSK is in control of baseball, they are in charge of softball
  - **Questions:**
    - Little League letter of support?
      - A vote passed at the special meeting, we are confirming we sent the letter
    - lights?
      - Yes, but they might not be in good shape
  - **Chess Club** volunteer need for the school -
- **Social/fundraising**
  - Festival is Sept 12 (Defender's Day)
- **Community garden (Dave)**
  - **Banner project:** installation date changed to Monday, Jan. 19; 34 banners on Fort Ave from Lawrence to Fort McHenry; special thanks for funding from

LPCA, Parks & Beautification, Domino Sugars, Mark Sapperstein, the Bells, etc.

- **Tree project** (pilot) trimmed 14 trees in the neighborhood – went smooth; will plan to offer it again; City should do it, but their backlog is a few years and this is value that the LPCA can provide to the community. Trees are very important to the health of the community and the environment
- **Garden:** no new information about moving to the new spot which is the old spot; need to finalize things with Mark Sapperstein – hopefully things close at the end of the month; we’ve been working with Baltimore Green Space to donate that space to them to help manage it (long term lease via LPCA); planning to work with Team 46 on rewording the current grant that Team 46 secured for us to be applicable to the new(previous) location ; a lot of work has to be done to get it into shape – we are eager to get a garden this spring

### **Old/new business, announcements & guests**

- **Turo issue** – path to resolution; not technically against the law, but it does violate the “good neighbor” policy; THANK YOU to Senator Ferguson’s office
- **Digital Bay update:** no update
- **Thread Baltimore** enrolls the lowest performing students at the lowest performing high schools; 32 from Digital Harbor with below 1.0 GPA & a <6% chance of graduating; in need of volunteers- signup sheet passed around; [www.thread.org](http://www.thread.org)
- **Volleyball**
  - Revitalized last year; sometimes many people come out to play - looking for support for a 2<sup>nd</sup> court
  - Intention is to preserve it for public use and prohibit privatizing
  - Could be a good use of the community grant funding
  - Molly suggested they define the ask in writing
  - Requested that they work with the Parks Beautification Committee
- **Zac Blanchard (8:21 p.m.)**
  - 2026 focus
    - **Main Streets:** currently challenged by high level of vacancy and crime; proposing tools to better fund and support
    - **Starter/Silver Homes:** creating more home ownership in the “starter cost range”, making it easier to build smaller, single-family homes
    - **Electoral reform:** proposing a reform package that strengthens public financing and allows independents to vote in primary elections
    - **Tax Shift:** working with state partners to lighten tax load on homeowners and productive businesses and shift to low value uses like blighted properties and surface parking loss (Land Value Tax)
    - Council to have more influence on the budget process
  - **Public safety in the city**

- Homicides down by + 65% over the last five years; ~30% drop in aggravated assault and armed robbery
- Dirt bikes – not as positive; continuing to meet with mayor; 16x the noise level of cars; difficult to enforce; cops on dirt bikes program
- **Turro issue** – discussed with legal dept; meter that block of Andre?
- **Baltimore Peninsula** director has been working to help make the trail connection happen; CSX is opposed to the sidewalk b/c it's on their property and the property owner must approve it
  - Questions - Is CSX subject to state-level protection?
    - It's mostly federal that insulates them
  - Suggest LPCA write a letter to the City requesting the portion of the Greenway Trail at McComas be completed
  - This is an LPCA priority; Molly hopes to have a letter for us to vote on at the Feb mtg
- Other updates
  - BGE project will impact Key Highway – we are trying to get BGE at the meeting
  - May elections – we will need a new recording secretary

**Adjournment 8:52 p.m.**