

BWCO Board Meeting November 11, 2014

Sonja called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Joe motioned that we accept the minutes. Phil seconded.

Mary Pat Clarke and Gennady Schwartz (BCRP): Montpelier Park

Gennady Schwartz from BCRP attended the meeting to present a proposal to transfer the zoning restriction on Montpelier and 30th Street Park (The Field) behind the 900 block of Montpelier to Gywnns Falls. He stated that the land already carries a clause that stipulates that it cannot be sold and that to remove and transfer the restriction that currently protects requires signatures of three state agencies. His position is that the restriction would be more useful if applied to a larger area of land, as it would allow for a larger park space. Debra, Phil, Andy, Joe, and others voiced concern. Eleanor and some other residents asked questions. Sonja summarized that the board and the community do not support this.

Waverly Family Center (829 Montpelier) Fencing

Ms. Sharon, Mr. Hassan, and Ms. Karen from the Waverly Family Center attended the meeting to speak about this issue. Mary Pat gave some context/history to the situation and reported that neighbors complained about a six foot fence on the Ellerslie side of the Waverly Family Center that was erected because of a Early Headstart program. The fence is in violation of zoning because you can't have a fence that is higher than 42 inches on a side yard. Zoning board does have the ability to allow a variance to allow 25% more height.

Ms. Karen apologized about the height of the fence and reported that they are diligently working to get the fence at the correct height to meet program requirements. Their contractor has pulled a permit with the permit number 20142234. Community members voiced concern about the need for permits. Mary Pat and members of the community expressed that we work together to resolve this issue.

Olmstead Pathway Protection

Mary Pat reported that she has introduced legislation to protect the Olmstead pathway which

is the large median strip beginning at the entrance to Clifton park up the Alameada down 33rd all the way to Charles then jumps over and connects to Wyman Park and then to Druid Hill Park. CHAP will most likely have a public hearing to discuss the legislation. Joe made a motion that BWCO support the legislation. Board members voiced support for this legislation.

Police Department Report

Officer Sims advised neighbors to keep personal possessions out of vehicles. He also noted that the police are aware of the drug problems in the neighborhood and are working to resolve them.

Joe expressed concern about two incidents. A woman was assaulted on the 3200 block of Westerwald outside her home and hit with a BB gun on her head. The windows of a house

on the 3200 block of Ellerslie were shot out with a BB gun around the same time. Officer Sims did not have information about those incidents, but Joe requested a status report. Judy said that this area needs more patrol. Andy expressed concern about the lack of resources and expressed that the community is willing to work to express to the city that the police need more resources.

Officer Sims requested that if residents hear the helicopter hovering over their home they should look outside to see if someone is hiding and report that to the police.

Youth Committee Report

Debra and Eleanor expressed that the Youth Committee wants to bring Sarah on staff full time. Funding has been committed for this. Board members stated that we have already voted to approve this step, so they can move forward with the process.

The Youth Committee is asking the board what they should do now? Does the board want 901 Arts to stay a part of the community organization or spin off and be its own organization? The board agreed that a decision could not be reached tonight. Some members suggested that a special meeting be held to address this issue.

Announcements

Joe announced that a Photo essay will appear in the Baltimore Sun about Better Waverly.

Sonja announced that BCPS is considering closing some schools at the end of this school year. Abbottson ES is slated for closure and the current students are projected to attend Waverly. A hearing will be held November 15 at 5:30.

Sonja made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phil seconded.