**BWCO February Board Meeting**

February 10, 2015

Sonja called the meeting to order a few minutes after 7pm. Sonja asked that we approve the minutes. Joe moved that we approve the minutes. Phil seconded. The minutes were approved.

**Announcements**

Sonja stated that we do not have a hospitality committee and shared that she has given extra funds from the budgeted amount to people from the community who have helped her as a token of appreciation. She expressed that she can continue to operate in this manner, or she could instead rely on donations from the board. She asked if any board members had an objections to this manner of operating; no board members expressed objections.

**Leadership Academy**

Camille Aponte from the Maryland State Bar Association Leadership Academy attended the meeting to share information about a pro-bono small business boot camp at Waverly Elementary School on Saturday, May 2 from 8:30 to 4:30. The purpose of the program is to provide the community with access to experienced business lawyers. In the morning, there will be several sessions about fundamental aspects of business management, from basic taxes, employment law 101, business leases etc. In the afternoon, there will be a legal clinic for one on one meetings. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

**Baltimore City Police Department**

Officer John Perfetto from the Northern District represented the Police Department at the meeting and shared some information about recent crime in the area. Officer Perfetto shared that he recently confiscated two dirt bikes from juveniles on Belle Terre. He also reported that the car from the car jacking at Giant has been recovered and a juvenile has been arrested in connection to the crime. He reported that there have been a few car break-ins in the area and shared some tips about how to avoid this, such as keeping valuables out of sight, and not leaving cars unattended when warming them up. He also reported that there was a break-in and robbery on the 3000 block of Independence, and a home break in on the 700 block of Gorsuch. Additionally, a stolen car was received on the 1100 block of Filmore.

**Finance**

Debra sent in her report for the Finance Committee via email. She shared the following:

Here is the BWCO profit and loss statement for the first 2 quarters of fiscal year 2015.

As of the end of the second fiscal quarter, the bank balance was:

Checking:    $1,222.22
Savings:        $2,242.62

**Housing, Sanitation, and Code Enforcement**

Josh shared that this committee met with Greater Homewood to discuss strategies for attracting developers to the neighborhood. Unfortunately, while the neighborhood attracts landlords, the current market and rehab costs do not allow developers to make a profit. Peter Duvall from GHCC is looking for grant money to help close the 15-50k gap for investors to rehab homes to good homeownership standards. Peter is seeking a grant for half a million or a million dollars to subsidize about 25 properties in the neighborhood. Board members suggested GEDCO and St. Ambrose as possible developers.

Phil shared that two new properties have entered the receivership process because they have been vacant:

601 Montpelier and 620 Montpelier. Phil shared that this process has just started and typically takes around 6 months. Phil also reported that 700 Homestead has been condemned. The committee has placed a request to the city housing department for more information. Mary Pat has promised we will get a response. Joe asked if we have a mechanism in place to address code enforcement issues by sending letters. The committee responded that this is a goal.

**Land Use**

Phil gave updates on several properties. First, the owner of 615 Homestead has asked for permission to proceed with work from the Historical Society. If no work has begun by March 1, we will follow up with the architect. 622 Homestead recently had siding and windows installed. The owner got an exception from the historical society to use vinyl, but this will not be considered a precedent. Phil shared that the owner of 708 Homestead started construction on a major addition without permits. She eventually submitted plans, but the planner did not submit those to us and unfortunately, CHAP approved the plans without our community signature. The committee plans to pay close attention to the planner’s work in the future because it is unacceptable that they proceeded without community input in this case. Phil also reported that the committee decided not to take action on 901 Gorsuch, because they were divided on the issue. Eric asked about the property and stated that he would support a dental lab there. Phil reported that the committee sent a letter of support for a zoning change for the Red Clover Collective, but expressed apprehension about making it rooming house zoning in the letter. Additionally, the committee wrote a comment letter on the city’s bike plan, in which it supported the proposed bike lanes on 33rd and recommend buffered lanes, supported Homestead as a neighborhood bike route, suggested that the bike lane on Old York be two way, and voiced concern that the proposed sharrow on Loch raven is unsafe given the speed of the street.

**Safety Committee**

Joe presented on the committee’s activities. He announced that the Northern District Community Council Meeting was rescheduled for Wednesday, February 18 at 7pm. Joe shared some information about car jackings and failure of communication by the Police department. As a result, a special emergency meeting was set up between neighborhood representatives. Northern and North Eastern District police were present. Three people have been arrested, there’s a warrant out for a fourth, and a fifth has not yet been identified. The car jackings have stopped. Two of culprits live on Frisby Street. Joe also reported that two violent assaults of women have occurred on Guilford; the perpetrator lives on the 900 block of Gorsuch. Joe reported the he is trying to schedule Spring Walking Waverly. He also reported that the Apostolic Church asked if we would like to partner with them for the National Night Out. Joe said he would invite the church to come to a committee meeting. Sonja asked that we continue to remember Mackenzie Elliot at our National Night Out Event. Judy expressed that she would like a representative from the Church to attend a board meeting, rather than have the committee responsible for making all decisions. Joe moved that committees notify board members of committee meetings and agenda. Phil also added that committee meetings are posted on Nextdoor and the website. Phil seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Youth Committee**

Eleanor asked for approval for the youth committee to pursue several grants. First, was the Hopkins neighborhood Fund Application 5k to fund the drum instructor at 901 Arts. Phil made a motion that the board approved the grant application. Judy seconded. Motion passed. Second was the Echo General Fund, who invited Sarah to submit a letter asking to be allowed to apply for the grant, due March 15. Sarah would like approval to send the letter. The grant would probably be around 3k. Third, the youth committee asked for approval to apply to the Peck Foundation, who funds art programs by invitation. Sarah has been invited to send the initial letter and plans to apply for around 5k. Finally, the committee asked for approval to apply for the Creative Baltimore Fund, a city fund that just started last year for general operating support for arts programs.

The board expressed approval for the committee to apply for these grants, but there was some discussion over whether this was a necessary step in the process, or if the committee just needed to get approval once the funds had been secured. Eleanor stated that this is not a good practice to ask for approval on such short notice, and Sonja shared that she feels we should try to do things in a more timely fashion and share information sooner. Josh expressed his view that 901 Arts should perhaps more autonomous in their grant applications. Sonja suggested that committees applying for grants might call the directors so that the process is more transparent. Eleanor moved that the board approve 901 Arts to apply for Echo General Fund, the Peck Foundation, and the Creative Baltimore Fund. Joe seconded.  Motion passed.

**Annual Plan**

Phil shared some background on the annual plan. Joe moved that we adopt the proposed annual plan as it is currently written. Phil seconded. Motion passed. Joe suggested putting it on the website and asked for permission to circulate it via his own email list, which was granted.

**General Meeting**

The general meeting will be held March 26 at Eastern at 6:30pm. In order to advertise the general meeting, we will have to figure out who will distribute flyers, using the previous distribution list. Sonja asked about the food. Sonja has not heard from Hopkins about funds, but will touch base with them tomorrow. There is money in the outreach fund. Joe shared that we passed a motion a few years ago that we can spend $75 for each general meeting. We have confirmed that these funds are available for the meeting if necessary. Joe will make the flyer and we will ask Abby to make copies.

Joe motioned to adjourn. Cathleen seconded.