

April 14, 2021

Original Northwood Association

Quarterly Open Board Meeting

April 2021

7:32 Start

Attendance: Richard Skolasky (President), Glenn Paisley (Vice President), Jen Spratt (Treasurer), Margo Madsen (secretary), Mary Stevens (Covenant), Zhan Kaplan (Maintenance), Joe Mertz (Safety), Jason Drennan (Social), Carla Paisley (Communication)

President's Welcome:

Spring has sprung: clean ups are in swing, food trucks are back on Wednesdays, our spring newsletter will be coming out shortly with lots of information about events, activities, and work in our neighborhood. New striping and flex posts have gone up on Argonne, which has already helped slow traffic. We are glad to see this but will continue to work towards speed cameras.

Guests:

- Shaakira Gill - Community Liaison with the City Council President Nick Mosby's Office:
 - I will be in attendance at most meetings with updates and just taking notes. Please reach out about any neighborhood concerns you have. My email is shaakira.gill@baltimorecity.gov and my number is (410)925-0484.
- Odette Ramos - City Councilwoman:
 - Odette.ramos@baltimorecity.gov , phone: (410)396-4814
 - Two big announcements of upcoming events: Saturday the Mayor and I will be at Lake Montebello for walk in the park with the community please feel free to join us at 10:00 am. Secondly the Mayor's clean-up is on the 24th so get your bags and gloves ready to clean your direct area.
 - Monday April 26th @ 5:30pm district 14 will have a chance to review mayors newly drafted violence prevention plan, review and give feedback. The plan includes different responses with police conflict mediation. Director Jackson will present and accept responses.
 - Traffic calming with striping has been implemented and I am working on traffic cameras with my colleague in the 3rd district.
 - A new music series will be starting in May at Waverly Commons, near the Waverly market. There will be live music every other Thursday- this is a great outdoor activity spread over the lots for ample space, masks will be required.

- More info to come in our weekly newsletter that comes out every Monday. Please email me to sign up.
 - Don't forget about our weekly town halls on Wednesday nights – next week we will be addressing Earth Day.
 - Today I sat in on a public safety briefing by Mosby about low level crimes and how they will be addressed. The discussion was interesting and a recording of the session is available online for those of you interested.
 - We have bunches of new legislation we are working on including: the tax sale which is a very predatory process. If you know of someone who cannot pay their taxes by April 30th please let us know. A number of accounting issues have been brought to my attention, so please let me know.
 - Hearings are being conducted about the impending eviction crisis as the moratorium ends and courts reopen. We have already seen an increase in homelessness across city and there is a directive that no encampments will be forced to move, but we are reaching out to offer resources.
 - Please let me know if you would like a community walk in your neighborhood.
 - Community Q: "I was wondering if there is a reason that Mervo and City have locked tracks from public?"
- A: I don't know for certain. I know City was having drainage issues and is slated for repairs – but I will look into it and reach out to you with an answer.

· Carlos Sanchez- Representative from South Baltimore Community Land Trust and the Zero Waste Coalition:

- Video highlighting our mission and work:
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2021/apr/12/inside-south-baltimores-fight-against-burning-trash-video>
- Our goal is to put trash incinerators, like the one found in South Baltimore, out of business. The incinerator is the number one polluter in South Baltimore costing 55million in health damages per year to community, and yet their contract was just extended for another 10 years. It is not just city trash, but Baltimore county trash as well as large amounts of recycling that is being burned. These incinerators can be found across the country, always positioned in low income predominately minority areas.
- The vast majority of what is being burned can be composted or recycled. We are currently diverting 500-600 pounds per week to composting and adopting best practices from other cities. We have a commitment from the Mayor that the city will provide free recycling bins to all residents. Our goal is to starve the incinerator and feed the community. Zero waste increases jobs as well as health.
- Our first annual Zero Waste Day event will be April 22nd . Please register for event at
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/baltimores-first-annual-zero-waste-day-tickets-147890914707>

- Stay tuned for updates as the compost collective is looking to expand city wide.

· Kim Wiggins - Live Baltimore Representative:

- kwiggins@livebaltimore.com
- Live Baltimore is a virtual based nonprofit with the mission to bring people to Baltimore and retain current residents. We create community profiles on the 278 neighborhoods in our, host education classes on home buying, help potential buyers find out if they qualify for a \$5,000 home buying incentive, and so much more. We have a high rate of return, for every \$1 spent of city funding we add \$13 to city revenue, and 1 in 7 homebuyers in Baltimore use our resources.
- Our website has tons of information for potential and current residents. From explaining ground rent to profiles of each neighborhood with resources about schools, amenities, etc.
- If you would like to become a neighborhood ambassador and contribute to your neighborhoods page please visit our site to create a profile. This allows people to reach out through our forum to ask questions. It not a large commitment, with questions coming in about once a month.
- We also host “Fun on Fridays” events in different neighborhoods, so please let us know if you want to be on our list. These events allow current residents to talk about their hopes for and highlights of their community. We will be returning soon hopefully- home buying evenings - trolley tour 3 a year
- I am focused mainly on our family retention program *Way to Stay*, that aims to help families navigate their need for increased space, create and link support groups, and collaborate with schools to make sure families have the information they need.

Chair Updates:

President

- We applied for and received reimbursements from the GNCA around \$10,000

Vice President

- Nominating committee –we are looking for three long term residents who are interested in helping recruit folks for board positions and committee involvement.
- The dues letter has been updated and once reviewed by the President and Communications chair is ready for publishing.

Treasurer

[ONA Treasurer Report 2021-03 march.pdf](#)

- March increased membership by 8 households to a total of 39% participation
- Covenant fees for legal advice last month were our only expenditure.
- \$15,000 currently in our account

- Expecting \$10,000 from GNCA for reimbursable expenses.

Communications

- Work on newsletter continues – hoping to include info from tonight’s guests.
- Working to send it out in both digital and physical format
- Very active on social media about upcoming events – trying to encourage community involvement
- Work on website – specifically updating the language
- Events are being posted on website with day of updates
- Please let me know if there is anything you would like me to share on any of our platforms.

Covenant

- Last month we received and reviewed the following applications:
 - [2021 April 14 OPEN SESSION Covenant Chair Report.docx](#)

Maintenance

- Tree planting is complete – the Tree Trust was amazing, fast and efficient. They will monitor and water the trees every 2-3 weeks. Each tree has a 2 year full guarantee, if any die in that time they will be replaced at no cost to us. They created a full cartography map of the planting as well. Shout out to Jane for her knowledge and dedication to our canopy!
- Last Saturday we had a neighborhood clean-up – it was a small but mighty group. We collected 15 bags. More frequent clean ups will be scheduled now that the weather is turning.
- Dumpster days have been scheduled. There will be one each quarter for the remainder of the year – you can find details on our calendar or nextdoor.com
- Bulk trash- There was a complaint from a community member about a citation for bulk trash, it was not the board that called, the city does regular reviews of their own. Do not leave out bulk trash call 311 to arrange pick-up.
- DPW supervisor did come to check into yard waste pick up and agrees that we need regular pick up – we will let you know as we hear updates about that.

Safety

- Neighborhood alley mirror project update: Seven locations are at the top of our list, we are currently contacting residents at those locations to discuss installation.
- Requesting that neighbors submit a speed camera request for the 1000-1300 section of Argonne Drive through Baltimore City's 311 system, the more requests there are the more likely we are to get one.

Social

- Wednesday night food trucks have kicked off and are going well. The local food trucks have reached out to let us know they are selling our and truly appreciate our neighborhood, so let's keep the support going! Calendar can be found on our website.
- Lynette Dodson will be hosting Cuples Virtual Tea Tasting-products will available for pick up with walk through tasting on May 2nd
- Neighborhood Wine & Cheese will be hosted outside – the Wine Source will help manage presentation and host wine tasting on May 22nd
- Summer Movie Night's will hopefully start in June – Carla has offered to host and we have a blow up screen ready to go for kid friendly movies. Dates TBD

Meeting Wrap-up:

As not everyone has had a chance to review March's meeting minutes, please take a look and send edits to Margo. Once edits have been provided we can vote.

Margo will aim to circulate the minutes earlier to allow more time for review.

Community Q: "We have new community members who have moved in on Kelway, and was wondering if the board has provided welcome packages?" A: We have been sending a letter with information and our web addresses since the pandemic began, it is sent through PayHOA and can have a delay. We will follow up.

There were speed bumps knocked loose on Kelway during snow removal. The apartment complex owns that road and are therefore responsible to replace those speed bumps. The city is working with them to get them replaced.

Motion to adjourn. Motion seconded. All votes in favor. Adjourned at 9:02pm

