

LONG REACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 3, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Long Reach Board of Directors was called to order by Nina Basu, at 7:34 pm Tuesday, September 3, 2019 in the Tamar Room at Stonehouse. Other members present were Reginald Avery, Ed Coleman, Josh Friedman, and David Wissing. Also present were Janet Evans, CA Council Rep, Tina Addo, Administrator, and Tina Osborne, Board Secretary.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

The agenda and August 20, 2019 minutes were approved by consensus.

VILLAGE CENTER REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive, provided updates on what has been done and what will be done to stabilize the village center through maintenance, repair, beautification, and obtaining potential future tenants. Ball stated that there is interest in immediately leasing to nonprofits and Community oriented tenants, and has explored viability of a commercial kitchen. In the long term, it will take years to find the right partner to redevelop the village center.

Mark Stromdahl, Chief, Bureau of Facilities, stated that power washing, repair of trim and soffits, painting; repair of exterior lighting, trimmed bushes and trees, painting, and obtained a security guard office. Other improvements are forthcoming, such as canvas awnings and repair of storm drains.

Amy Gowan, Howard County Planning and Zoning, Deputy Director, stated that the county is working with an Economic Analyst and a Property Management Specialist. The search for potential future tenants is focused on an Arts, Education, and Empowerment theme.

Jennifer Jones, Deputy Chief of Staff, introduced several potential tenants, Doris Ligon, African Art Museum; Kelliann Few, Power 52 Energy Solutions; Bitu Dayhoff, Community Action Council / Early Childhood Center (3-4 year olds); and Rob Brown, Food Facilities (commercial /community kitchens).

During the Resident Speak Out session, several residents discussed ideas for the village center, such as tutoring, bicycle repair, and a coffee shop. Other potential tenants spoke during this time, to discuss what they could add to the village center. Those representatives were Kim Young, Healthy Little Cooks/Every Kid Can Cook; Lee Anderson, ManneqART; and Valencia Wood, IO Workshop.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Basu discussed that there has been some immediate improvements done, but there needs to be more to include a three phase approach. Phase one, suggests that Mark Stromdahl, Chief, Bureau of Facilities, develop expectations for the revitalization of the village center and provide updates on a regular basis, this would include updates to include the Howard County Police. Suggest update meetings, monthly or bi-monthly, and check in of process quarterly.

Phase two, would be stabilization of the village center. Phase 3, would be redevelopment. Everyone hold each other accountable.

BOARD COMMENTS

Coleman thanked everyone for coming out, and stated that the meeting shows a lot of promise, since we are hearing that businesses are showing interest in the village center, and see that is a viable commercial property to make an investment. Mr. Coleman also wanted to thank those responsible for National Night Out, and would like to host next year.

Avery stated that he heard a lot of great ideas. Mr. Avery stated that there needs to be a purpose for people to come to the village center, and he does not believe that there is a right mix of suggested businesses yet, but it is getting there. Need a plan now, and it cannot take another five years.

Friedman thanked everyone for their comments and feedback. Mr. Friedman also wished to thank Dr. Ball and staff for their continued involvement. Mr. Friedman stated that he loved the ideas and enthusiasm that was displayed this evening.

Wissing thanked everyone for coming, and asked to get updates/ communications, from county officials, to keep the community out of the dark.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Evans expressed her appreciation of plans for getting people into the village center. There is a lot to be done in the long term. Discussed the need to have an environmental component, as in the original plan, stay front and center and be an example for the rest of Howard County.

10 Minute Recess.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT (attached to original minutes)

FY'19 FOURTH QUARTER REPORT (revised)

Avery motioned to approve the revised FY19 Fourth Quarter Report. Friedman seconded. Approved 5-0-0.

FY'20 FIRST QUARTER REPORT

Friedman motioned to approve the FY20 First Quarter Report. Coleman seconded. Approved 5-0-0.

CA BUDGET INPUT FROM VILLAGE

Avery motioned to request CA to review its facilities, and its operational and capital maintenance expenses for each facility, as they enter the budgeting process. Friedman seconded. Approved 5-0-0

LRVB added a request for dredging of Jackson Pond, Waiting Spring, and Dannon Garth. Also included, is a request of removal of invasive plant species.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Nina Basu, Chair

Tina Osborne, Board Secretary