

LONG REACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 15, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Long Reach Board of Directors was called to order by Nina Basu at 7:31 pm, Tuesday, December 15, 2020 and was held virtually via Zoom and phone. Other members present were Ed Coleman, Reginald Avery, Josh Friedman, and David Wissing. Also present were Janet Evans, CA Council Rep, Tina Addo, Executive Director, and Anne Kulesza, Board Secretary.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOVEMBER 17, 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Coleman motioned to amend the agenda to include the Lake Elkhorn Stream Restoration Project as Item E, which was approved by consensus. The November 17, 2020 meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

RESIDENT SPEAKOUT

Ashley Alston, District Aide to Council Member Opel Jones, stated she was attending the meeting if the Board needed to discuss any issues.

Mandy Elder, Watershed Advisory Committee member and Long Reach resident, stated that she and a couple Watershed Committee Members joined John McCoy, Columbia Association (CA) Watershed Manager, last week for a walk around Jackson Pond to discuss the stream restoration project and the existing infrastructure in place.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Kulesza provided the Board with correspondence, which are attached to the original minutes.

LAKE ELKHORN STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT

Basu stated that she, along with Friedman and various CA and Village staff, attended a walk at Jackson Pond on December 15, 2020 with John McCoy and employees from Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. Basu explained that CA Staff is recommending, and the CA Board is considering an easement grant to Wetland Studies and Solutions to improve a significant portion of the Lake Elkhorn watershed beginning just above Jackson Pond. Phase One of the project includes 3,500 linear feet of stream in Long Reach. Basu mentioned that the project is interesting because it is using money from others to improve CA's assets. Wetland Studies will fund the entire project by creating a stream mitigation bank in which a Public Works Agency (Howard County, State Highway Administration) or private landowner (developers) that needs to impact streams on their property can purchase stream credit for restoring impaired streams elsewhere in the same portion of the watershed. Basu stated that the project would benefit Long Reach significantly and Columbia as a whole.

Friedman added that the big lift for Long Reach and CA is communication and education, getting the word out to the community about the project. In addition, he mentioned that developers that may purchase credits have already been permitted or have even built the developments, so that the availability of a stream credit is not a decision point for any prospective development that may happen in Howard County. He agreed with Basu in that this project does a lot for stream management in Long Reach and ultimately benefits the whole of Columbia and Lake Elkhorn.

Evans stated that this project will save CA millions of dollars and is a benefit to Long Reach. Avery motioned resolving that the Long Reach Village Board supports this project and authorizes the Village Manager to draft a letter to the CA Board offering support. Friedman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Mandy Elder explained that Wetland Studies chose the Elkhorn watershed area due to the size of the project, specifically the linear length of the stream from Jackson Pond to Lake Elkhorn. Other areas affected in Long Reach include Jeffers Hill and Locust Park. She said that John McCoy will draft a blurb for the village newsletter and suggested a “walkable watershed” to help with outreach and resident education.

Peter Lowe, Long Reach Watershed Advisory Committee member, expressed concerns about whether Wetland Solution’s approach is the optimal approach. He asked if there is any point in the process in which the Watershed Committee might be able to view the plans and provide feedback.

Evans stated that she can request that the easement language reflect the fact that the easement and work to be performed on behalf of the easement is approved prior to moving forward.

DONATION REQUEST: COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CARE

Addo stated that Columbia Community Care is requesting the use of space during the cold weather months to distribute food and supplies to those who need it in the community. She stated that there is availability at Phelps Luck Neighborhood Center. Avery motioned to approve the donation request with the caveat that the Village Manager shall use her judgement in the agreement and management of the relationship. Friedman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

BOARD RESOLUTION: CHANGE IN POST OFFICE ADDRESS AND RESIDENT AGENT

Coleman motioned to approve the Long Reach Village Board Resolution changing the post office address of the principal office of the Association and the name and address of the resident agent of the Corporation. Resolution attached to original minutes. Friedman seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENTS

Basu thanked Addo and her staff for all the hard work this year, especially how effectively the village has been run during the COVID-19 pandemic. She mentioned that there has been improvement at the Village Center, but she would like the Board next year to focus on working with the county to better understand what their plans are for the Long Reach Village Center.

BOARD COMMENTS

Friedman stated he was very pleased with the efforts made to protect the watershed. He is excited about the stream restoration project.

Wissing had no comments.

Avery stated that Calvin Ball’s administration has done a very good job for us during the pandemic and in keeping the community informed. He salutes Opel Jones for his participation as well. Avery mentioned that he is getting questions from neighbors and other Long Reach residents about why CA is continuing with the lawsuit they are involved in. He stated that he did not have the answers to their questions and would like to

give some guidance to residents. Evan stated she will forward to Avery responses she has given to people regarding the lawsuit.

Coleman asked Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks to schedule a briefing to say what the role of Recreation and Parks is when it comes to approving landscaping plants for subdivisions. He hopes it will be an opening to start a dialogue between people that are interested in what would be a better plant species list to have or if there are species that should be removed from the current list. Coleman thinks this may help change the process for required landscape planting in developments throughout Howard County. He will let everyone know when the briefing is scheduled.

CA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Evans mentioned that forty-four applications have been received for Milton Matthew's position. She stated the CA Town Hall meeting will be scheduled in January 2021. There will be opportunity for residents to participate and ask questions. Evans will keep the Board updated on the meeting. She also stated she would like the letter of support for the Lake Elkhorn Stream Restoration Project to include that the Board would like to see the ability to have the plan approved by John McCoy and the Watershed Advisory Committee.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Addo provided report in writing, which is attached to the original minutes.

LRCA FINANCES

Addo provided an overview of the Second Quarter Financials and the Board discussed. Friedman motioned to approve the FY2021 Second Quarter Financials. Wissing seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0-0.

Basu explained that several villages have requested an amendment to the management contract allowing the villages to retain excess cash reserves from FY2021. Addo explained that retaining the cash reserves would benefit Long Reach by providing a safety net for current and future crises, as well as funds needed for facility upgrades and community projects. Avery motioned to approve an amendment to the management contract to waive the reduction of the excess cash reserves. Friedman seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0-0.

Addo explained the capital request for replacement of ceiling tiles at Stonehouse. Friedman motioned to approve the capital request as presented. Avery seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Nina Basu, Chair

Anne Kulesza, Board Secretary