

LONG REACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Long Reach Board of Directors was called to order by Nina Basu at 7:33 pm, Tuesday, February 2, 2021 and was held virtually via Zoom and phone. Other members present were Reginald Avery, Ed Coleman, 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 JANUARY 19, 2021 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The agenda was approved by consensus. The January 19, 2021 minutes were approved by consensus with an amendment to include the reason for the Executive Session.

LONG REACH COMMUNITY RESOURCE OFFICER, PFC MARICHAL

PFC Jose Marichal, Long Reach Community Resource Officer, PFC Corey Immer, Wilde Lake Community Resource Officer, and Sgt. Jeremiah Poehlman, Supervisor, Neighborhood Community Resource Officers, addressed the Board's questions and concerns about safety in Long Reach. PFC Marichal stated that since 2017, overall crime in the village has dropped by 45%. The Board expressed concerns about unsavory and criminal activity at the gas station located at the Village Center. The police are aware and continue to monitor that area.

CA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Evans left the meeting early at 8 pm to attend a CA function but provided a written report which was read by Basu. It stated that the search for a new CA President is expected to wrap up the end of March 2021 and that budget discussions continue, with the most contentious items being the number and location of outdoor pools, as well as the recommendation to close or not close Haven on The Lake.

CARES COMMITTEE CHARTER

Mandy Elder provided background and details regarding the proposed Long Reach committee called Community Action and Resources for Environmental Stewardship (CARES). Coleman motioned to approve the Cares Committee Charter as presented. Avery seconded, which was approved 5-0-0. The Charter is attached to the original minutes.

ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Wissing explained that there are several items regarding the upcoming 2021 village elections that the committee must address. The committee's priority is deciding on how to handle the nomination petition signature requirement considering the current COVID-19 safety protocols. The committee will continue to discuss the items and, at minimum, present its decision about the signature requirement at the February 16, 2021 Board meeting. The Election Committee Report is attached to the original minutes.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Basu stated she is concerned about the current state of the Village Center and adjacent properties, particularly the signage, flags, and other decorative items that are no longer in good repair. In addition, she is concerned about the loitering and crime activity at the gas station. She would like the Board to entertain a motion to send a letter to the owner of the gas station. Basu would like the County to continue efforts to improve and maintain the Village Center.

Basu stated she is pleased to hear about the reduction in crime and increased engagement in the community.

BOARD COMMENTS

Avery stated he had similar concerns to those brought up by Basu. He would like the County to provide a long term plan for the Village Center. He does not think that the current mix of new tenants creates enough of a draw for residents or those outside the village to visit the Village Center. Avery stated that he personally witnessed indecent behavior at the gas station and thinks the gas station owner needs to take responsibility for what is happening at the site. Avery also mentioned that he is proud to serve and happy to be there.

Wissing mentioned that the New Town Planning and Vision final document was released on February 1, 2021. He will share the document with the Board and Addo.

Friedman echoed Basu's sentiments about the Village Center. He appreciates the new tenants, but the signage and other items being left out at the Village Center are distracting. Friedman mentioned that he noticed some missing CA bridge signs. Basu explained that CA Open Space and the Howard County Police are aware of this Columbia-wide vandalism and are working to resolve the issue.

Coleman had no comments.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Nina Basu, Chair

Anne Kulesza, Board Secretary