



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2021

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, September 21, 2021, and was held virtually via Zoom and phone. Other members present were Ed Coleman, Reginald Avery, David Wissing, and Josh Friedman. Also present were Janet Evans, CA Council Rep, Tina Addo, Executive Director, and Anne Kulesza, Board Secretary.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Basu motioned to amend the agenda to include two topics, check signing process and election rules, after Announcements and Correspondence, which was approved by consensus. The September 7, 2021 Board meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES RENEWAL PROCESS

Nick Mayr, Program Officer at MD Dept. of Housing and Community Development, Victoria Olivier, Planning Supervisor, Community & Comprehensive Planning gave an overview of the Sustainable Communities Renewal Process. Also in attendance was Brian Shepter, Deputy Director, Department of Planning & Zoning, and Jeff DelMonico, Planning Specialist, Department of Planning & Zoning. Mr. Mayr gave a brief slide presentation. Ms. Olivier explained that the Long Reach Village was designated a Sustainable Community in 2016 and the five-year term is up. Howard County Government would like to renew the sustainable community designation for this geographic area and will be working with the Village Board and other community stakeholders to seek input as well as form a workgroup. A Sustainable Communities presentation is scheduled for October 19, 2021 during the Board meeting, so residents may get a better understanding of the program.

CA BUDGET INPUT

The Board reviewed the budget exercise Columbia Association would like the Villages to use. The Board completed one budget activity and opted to work on prioritizing the budget categories separately. Addo will compile the results for the Board's review. The information will then be shared with CA.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Basu talked about the frustration many are feeling about the County's lack of responsiveness regarding the Village Center. She is concerned that Howard Hughes Corp. has neglected the trash issue, which was reported to them by the HCPD, on its property directly adjacent to the Village Center. She feels that the Village Board and the community should hold the County and its elected officials, as owner of the Village Center, more accountable.

BOARD COMMENTS

Avery had no comments.

Coleman stated he would like to discuss Long Reach purchasing and using DocuSign. He would also like to add updating the Architectural Committee meeting format as an agenda item for a future meeting to discuss ways to make the process more resident friendly.

Friedman mentioned that several trash cans that were on the trails have been removed and the ones that remain get full quickly.

Wissing had no comments.

CA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Evans stated that CA budget discussions are underway. In response to Josh's comment, she mentioned that CA has been emptying trash cans up to twice a day in busy areas such as Jackson Pond and Lake Elkhorn due to the increased outdoor activity resulting from COVID. Evans stated that she agrees with Nina regarding the Village Center and would like to see the Board create a grassroots effort to help advocate for positive changes and put consistent pressure on the County. She mentioned that a resident contacted her about CA's stream restoration project, and she suggested that we contact CA to educate residents about it. Evans stated that CA's First Quarter Financial Statements will be presented at the next CA Board meeting.

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.

CHECK SIGNING PROCESS

Basu stated that the organization should research options to enable electronic check signing and suggested having a check log, which the Board could review with the quarterly financial statements. Coleman stated that the check register would guarantee that checks were signed legitimately. He also stated that DocuSign may help with electronic check signing and may have other village applications. Addo stated she was considering DocuSign and will research options.

ELECTION RULES

Basu mentioned that the Board should start reviewing changes to the election process. The Board discussed a few items that came up as a result of the recent election, such as signature requirements, and agreed to discuss changes at a future Board or special meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Nina Basu, Chair

Anne Kulesza, Board Secretary