



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 20, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Long Reach Board of Directors was called to order by Nina Basu at 7:32pm, Tuesday, June 20, 2023, in the Plaza Room at Stonehouse. Other members present were Ed Coleman, Lillian Norris-Holmes, Rick McCray, and Justin Van Hassel. Also present were Reginald Avery, CA Council Rep, Tina Addo, Executive Director, and Anne Kulesza, Board Secretary.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MAY 16, 2023 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The agenda and the May 16, 2023 Board meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

VILLAGE CENTER REDEVELOPMENT – County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball & Brian Shepter, Howard County Deputy Chief of Staff

Dr. Calvin Ball started the presentation with a brief overview of the history of the Village Center since being owned by the county and explained the timing of its future sale. Zachary Hollenbeck, Deputy Chief, Bureau of Facilities, provided details about the Request For Proposal (RFP) process. Brian Shepter, Deputy Chief of Staff, explained that the RFP will be based on the last RFP since the pillars of that proposal remain strong today: community spaces, innovative building design, connectivity, and economic sustainability. Dr. Ball and Mr. Shepter both stated that there will be transparency in this process and the county will include stakeholders, such as the LRCA Board, CA, adjacent property owners, and residents, in as much of the process as practical.

About 35 residents in attendance, along with the Village Board, were provided with the opportunity to ask the county questions about the project. Common themes included making sure that the process was transparent, ensuring that recreational/community space was included, senior accessibility, connectivity, affordable housing (including senior housing), and ensuring that the pitfalls and mistakes made during the last sale process are avoided.

The RFP is slated for release July 2023 with a conservative construction estimated start date of 2026/2027.

After the county's presentation ended at 9pm, there was a 10-minute break. The meeting resumed at 9:10pm.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Basu explained that this will be a busy summer and the Board may wish to reevaluate the meeting schedule. She strongly recommended that the Board review the LRCA Village Center Master Plan from 2012. Basu stated that updates may need to be made to the plan and suggested the Board prioritize that exercise.

BOARD COMMENTS

Coleman mentioned that they may want to consider sliding some of the Stonehouse renovations slated for early 2024 due to the uncertainty of the future Village Center plans and what that entails for Stonehouse.

Norris-Holmes stated that she felt it was a great meeting and a great opportunity for the community to be involved. She stated that she hoped the community left feeling positive about the Village Center's future.

Van Hassel seconded what was said about the board being involved in the RFP process and will work to ensure that happens.

McCray stated that he was appreciative that Dr. Ball came to the meeting to discuss the RFP. He stated that Dr. Ball and the county must be held accountable to their constituents regarding the RFP. He explained that the Village Center has been disregarded in many ways, so the Board and the community need to continue to pay close attention to this process.

CA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Avery stated that CA is interested in Long Reach, and he will continue to advocate on the village's behalf. He stated that he is one of three on the CA Board to review the RFP for the CA President job search. He mentioned that CA is going to have a work session to listen to Bob Dover, as well as others, speak on the Lake Elkhorn Stream Restoration/Mitigation Bank project.

In addition, Avery mentioned that his wife is 5 years cancer free.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Addo presented the 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.

RESIDENT SPEAKOUT – 2-minute limit per resident

Mr. Bob Dover, Long Reach resident, spoke about his concerns about the Lake Elkhorn Stream Restoration/Mitigation Bank project, including the removal of the Reach One section from the project. He explained he'll be continuing discussions with the CA Board.

Joan Bowe, Long Reach resident, requested that information about the Village Center be included in the newsletter. She also asked if the Reach One removal from the Lake Elkhorn project was official since she hadn't seen it anywhere.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29pm.

Nina Basu, Chair

Anne Kulesza, Board Secretary