



Town Center Community Association

June 10, 2015, Minutes

APPROVED July 8, 2015

The regular meeting of the Town Center Community Association was held on Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at Historic Oakland Manor. Those in attendance were Board members Joel Broida, Kirsten Coombs, Lynn Foehrkolb, Helen Ruther, and Board Chair Linda Wengel; Columbia Council representative Jeanne Ketley; and Village Manager Jeryl Baker. Others in attendance were Carol Galbraith, Rob Lance, Lily Coombs, Luke Coombs, Jane Winer, Andrew Michaels, Herbert Muse, John Herdson, Sam Cook, and Jack Saunderson.

At 7:00 p.m., Ms. Wengel called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda:

Ms. Coombs made a motion, seconded by Ms. Foehrkolb, to approve the June 10, 2015, agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of May 13, 2015, Minutes:

Ms. Ruther made a motion, seconded by Ms. Foehrkolb, to approve the May 13, 2015, minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Resident Speakout

Carol Galbraith, a resident of Wilde Lake Village, spoke regarding the “unbearable” noise from Merriweather Post Pavilion. She felt there was a larger problem with Symphony Woods being “hijacked” and no longer in our control. She felt it was a calculated political move to separate ownership and control, that the problem is ongoing, and that the principles of Columbia, those of openness, honesty, and community are no longer held fast. Ms. Coombs explained that IMP has control over the bands and Howard Hughes owns Merriweather, but the Columbia Association (CA) only owns Symphony Woods. Ms. Wengel noted that in a few years Merriweather will be turned over to a County sponsored commission. Ms. Foehrkolb suggested that Ms. Galbraith talk to her Wilde Lake Board and then the County Council and then their state legislator. Mr. Broida mentioned the Howard County Noise ordinance and sent each of the Board members a copy.

Board Liaison

Not present.

Architectural Committee

- 9809 Davidge Drive (Creighton’s Run) Install new siding (green) & trim (cream). **After discussion, Ms. Foehrkolb made a motion, seconded by Ms. Coombs, to approve the application as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.**
- 9809 Davidge Drive (Creighton’s Run) Erect a roof over rear lower-level deck. **After discussion, Ms. Foehrkolb made a motion, seconded by Mr. Broida, to approve the application as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.**

Order of Business

Downtown Development:

Ms. Wengel explained that Howard Hughes has requested to expand the imprint of Merriweather Post Pavilion and to raise the roof. Ms. Wengel requested that the Board send the Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning a request that they assess the noise levels that will occur once

these changes are made.

Every month the County Council has a legislative meeting and at the one held this week, the Downtown Columbia Housing Commission requested their suggestion to move forward with affordable housing of at least 15% distributed throughout the development. Howard Hughes recently presented at the Downtown Partnership meetings that they concentrate affordable housing in all new site development which would mean minimal affordable housing units on the Crescent property. It was decided that the two organizations would get together and come up with a compromise within one month. Ms. Wengel noted that one of the options Howard Hughes had put forth was to add affordable housing above the new firestation they plan to build. Another option was to buy the Flier building from the County and build moderate income housing there. A third option is to redevelop Tobys and build above the new stage and art center they plan to build. Ms. Ruther wondered if it would add to the density of the area. Ms. Ketley noted that Columbia Association has voted to endorse full spectrum Housing.

Sound Issues and Solutions:

Ms. Wengel assured the guests present that all elected officials and those associated with Merriweather are familiar with all the issues and complaints regarding the loud noise and thumping bass sounds keeping people up. Ms. Ruther explained that it was State Legislator Guy Guzzone who pushed through the exception for Merriweather so that they would stay in Howard County. Ms. Wengel noted that the original legislation had no sound restrictions so in essence the residents that spoke up did have an impact, as the final legislation at least had some restrictions. Ms. Galbraith wanted to know why our County Council and legislators did this and Ms. Coombs explained that is was to keep Merriweather here with all the financial income it brings to the community. Ms. Foehrkolb mentioned that the loud noise is a health issue as it can damage children's hearing. Ms. Wengel suggested that the Town Center Board write a letter requesting that our delegation and Columbia Association and the County Council organize a community meeting with expert testimony and to allow residents to be heard. Ms. Ketley also wanted them to revisit legislation. **Ms. Coombs made a motion to approve a letter be drafted by Ms. Foehrkolb and it was seconded by Ms. Ketley.** The motion carried unanimously.

Guests

John Herdson, Aquatics Director, Sam Cook, Assistant Manager of Bryant Woods Pool and Jack Saunderson, Assistant Manager of Dorsey Hall Pool arrived at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Herdson introduced himself as having been Aquatics Director for over 17 years now. Mr. Broida asked if they had plans to build a pool in Town Center and Mr. Herdson replied that there were not plans. They did, however, just renovate the Faulkner Ridge and Bryant Woods pools. Mr. Herdson introduced his assistant managers for the Bryant Woods, Faulkner Ridge, Dorsey Hall and Running Brook pools. There is now a cluster system with each Manager getting at least two pools to manage with 2-3 assistant managers also overseeing those two pools. Ms. Wengel noted that some of the new developments planned have their own pools and wondered if that was competition, but Mr. Herdson felt they were mostly small pools more for therapy or cooling off and less for laps. Mr. Herdson noted that outdoor pool membership now includes access to the swim center all year round.

FY 2015 Fourth Quarter Financial Results:

Mr. Broida made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ruther, to approve the FY 2015 Fourth Quarter Financial Results. The motion carried unanimously.

Board and Staff Reports

Manager's Report:

Submitted in writing. Ms. Baker told the Board that she had ordered the Little Free Library kit that CA will install in the Vantage Point Park and explained how it worked. Ms. Baker also asked about an upcoming

meeting to be held by the County Executive regarding Bridge Columbia and Ms. Wengel felt that it was mainly about funding options since they had already accepted the recommendation to simply expand and upgrade the current bridge. Mr. Broida, Ms. Baker, and Ms. Coombs will attend that meeting.

Chairperson Report:

Ms. Wengel explained the Columbia Association Revitalization Committee that she is currently serving on to award small grants for community organizer projects.

Columbia Council Report:

Ms. Ketley reported that the Columbia Board Matters will go out in the News Flash on June 11 and will be in the Center Fold for July. The Columbia Association 2-year budget planning is next on their agenda. She is also looking into how the Board functions and working to speed up meetings. She vowed to bring up the Merriweather noise issue to the CA Board. She noted that the most recent opening of Hobbits Glen Clubhouse was partially sponsored by the Horseshoe Casino and wondered if that was appropriate.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Coombs is a supporter of the Inner Arbor Trust and has recently been asked to act as Treasurer of said organization. She would act in an ex-officio capacity but wanted to get the “blessing” of the Town Center Board. There are village Board members from other villages who work on the committee, and her fiduciary duty is to Town Center first. The Board felt it was perfectly appropriate for her to be on that committee and wished her well.

Mr. Broida mentioned he was working with Columbia Association and Vantage House to get a mirror at the bottom of the hill where Vantage House parking lot empties into the access road to Historic Oakland. He had a meeting on site last week with those parties and is waiting to hear back.

Adjournment of Meeting

Ms. Ruther made a motion, seconded by Ms. Foehrkolb, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting of the Town Center Village Board adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Town Center Village Board is on Wednesday, July 8, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

Recorded and attested to by:

Jeryl B. Baker
Secretary/Treasurer

Date