



TOWN CENTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes
February 11, 2015

APPROVED 3/11/2015

The regular meeting of the Town Center Community Association was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at Historic Oakland Manor. Those in attendance were Chairperson Linda Wengel, Vice Chairperson Joel Broida, Board members Lynn Foehrkolb, Lee Richardson, and Helen Ruther, Village Manager Patricia Laidig, and Assistant Village Manager Patricia Loeber. Chris Alleva, Jerry Davis, John Klein, Joan Lancos, Rick Levitan, Tom Mungo, Chris Speer, and Russ Swatek were guests.

At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Broida made a motion, seconded by Ms. Foehrkolb, to approve the agenda as amended to add "Village Manager Recruitment Process". The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Broida made a motion, seconded by Ms. Foehrkolb, to approve the January 14, 2015, minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Resident Speakout

Rick Levitan, a small business owner, asked the Board to support the recommendations of the Howard County Fueling Stations Task Force report. Chris Speer spoke about the lack of communication from the County regarding the recent removal of approximately twenty ash street trees which were decimated by the emerald ash borer. Ms. Foehrkolb and Ms. Wengel stated that Town Center Community Association was taken by surprise, with no advance notification by the County, and that the magnitude of this tree project was enormous and unexpected. Ms. Laidig will follow up with County Council member Mary Kay Sigaty's office.

Board Liaison

Not present.

Guest: Christopher Aleva, Presentation on Zoning Controls in Columbia

Mr. Aleva discussed his belief that the County was: (1) using the Site Development Plan to illegally change land use in New Town Zoning (NTZ); (2) issuing waivers beyond the scope of authority; (3) arbitrarily ignoring duly adopted Planning Board policies; and (4) denying citizens standing to appeal. Mr. Aleva presented a draft letter supporting these views to the Town Center Board, which he asked the Board to adopt and send to the Howard County Executive. Ms. Wengel thanked Mr. Aleva for his presentation to the Board and stated that the topic would be on the March agenda for the Board to discuss at that time. Mr. Swatek, Mr. Levitan, and Mr. Aleva left at 7:26 p.m.

Architectural Committee

5600-5691 Vantage Point Road (Water's Edge): Remove eight dead, declining, or damaging trees; planting plan to be submitted later. **After discussion, Mr. Broida made a motion, seconded by Ms. Foehrkolb, to approve the application as submitted on condition that a landscaping plan for the trees' replacement with a combination of shrubs and trees in more appropriate locations be submitted in the future. The motion carried unanimously.**

Order of Business

FY 2016 Operating Budget:

Ms. Laidig presented the draft FY 2016 operating budget to the Board for their input. The draft budget will be posted on Town Center Community Association's website after March 7, 2015. No action was required by the Board at this time.

Rentals:

Ms. Laidig said that in light of a new Village Manager being hired, she reviewed the Association's financial procedures and drafted a revision to the room rental procedures to reflect Board policy identified throughout the Policy and Procedure Manual. **The Board approved the updated room rental procedures by unanimous consent.**

Resident Handbook:

Ms. Laidig presented the Board with the third draft of the handbook, which includes the changes discussed at the January Board meeting. The Board was very pleased with the look and content of the revised handbook, particularly the colorful Town Center map in the middle of the book. During discussion, Board members said they would like to have election districts included, perhaps under "Neighbor Connections". Ms. Laidig will redraft the handbook with this change.

Bridge Columbia:

After discussion, Mr. Broida made a motion, seconded by Mr. Richardson, to sign on to Bridge Columbia's joint statement supporting Option 3B, a cable-stayed bridge with dual transit lanes, or Option 4B, an iconic bridge with dual transit lanes. The motion passed 4-0-1, with Ms. Wengel abstaining.

Recruitment Process:

Ms. Wengel said that the Board search committee has begun interviewing candidates for the Village Manager position. Resumes and cover letters will be accepted until February 27. Finalists will be invited to interview with the full Board at the end of the first week of March.

Development:

Regarding The Metropolitan Downtown Columbia, Ms. Wengel reported that the attorneys representing Kettler have questions about annexation and have not signed the annexation papers yet. Ms. Laidig will refer the annexation questions to Town Center's attorney for his advice. Regarding the March 11, 2015, Board meeting, it was suggested that County Council members who have requested to meet with the Board about NTZ, be asked to arrive after 8:00 p.m., after Town Center's "Annual Speakout".

Town Center 2014-2016 Strategic Initiatives:

The Resident Handbook will soon be completed. Ms. Laidig is finalizing changes to the publication.

Board and Staff Reports

Manager's Report:

Submitted in writing. Ms. Laidig told the Board that the Village Managers are looking to have branding for the Villages, which would include brochures, a logo, and a website. The cost for this initiative would be \$25,000. In order for money in the contingency fund to be used for this purpose, a majority of the 10 Village Boards would need to agree to request funds. Ms. Laidig was asked to provide more information regarding the cost and selection of a vendor.

Chairperson's Report:

In recognition of her impending retirement, the Town Center Village Board presented Ms. Laidig with the gift of having her rental at Oakland Manor in March 2015 be at no cost to her. Ms. Laidig expressed her gratitude to Board Members for their generosity. Ms. Wengel reported on the most recent Downtown Partnership meeting. A Sweet Life Festival is being planned as a party with a purpose. The Downtown Partnership is considering a business improvement district, similar to the one at Baltimore's Inner Harbor. They have hired a consultant to explore the possibility. County Council action would be required to create such a district.

Columbia Council Report:
Not present.

Board Member Comments:
Nothing further at this time.

Mr. Broida 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 8:28 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Town Center Village Board will be Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

Recorded and attested to by:

Patricia B. Laidig

Secretary/Treasurer

Date