



**TOWN CENTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES**

February 10, 2021

APPROVED

The regular meeting of the Town Center Community Association Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, February 10, 2021, entirely by a Zoom virtual meeting due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic. Those present for the meeting were Board Chair Lynn Foehrkoib; Board Vice Chair Kevin Fitzgerald; Board Members Joel Broida, Dean Dworkin, Lin Eagan, and Jamie Hibbard; and Village Manager Lyn Locke.

At 7:00 p.m., Ms. Foehrkoib called the meeting to order. Ms. Foehrkoib asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Hibbard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald, to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dworkin, to approve the January 13, 2021 minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Resident Speak Out

There were not any residents on for Speak Out.

Architectural Committee

- **5652 Vantage Point Road (Water's Edge) – Paint Door/Add New Screen Door:** Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Broida, to approve the application as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.
- **5449 Ring Dove Lane (Ring Dove) – Rebuild Deck/Add Enclosure:** Mr. Broida made a motion to approve, seconded by Kevin Fitzgerald, to approve the application as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.
- **6014 Shepherd Square – Add Concrete Patio:** Mr. Broida made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald, to approve the application as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Order of Business

Vandalism and Security Update

Mr. Locke reported that the alleged perpetrator of the Waterbury and Ring Dove vandalism incidents was arrested in January and in the process of the arrest assaulted police officers. He was held without bond pending a State of Maryland mental health evaluation on February 12 followed by potential trial dates. Mr. Locke participated in several Waterbury and community safety meetings to address the issues. The TCCA Board elected not to write a letter to the Court regarding the case as due process needs to play out and there is enough case information available to the County. The Waterbury Board elected to write a letter to the Court.

Inner Arbor Trust Concept Plan Approval By CA Board

Nina Basu, Executive Director of the Inner Arbor Trust, presented the concept plan for the 51-acre Symphony Woods property that she presented to the Columbia Association Board. The concept was approved by the CA Board. The process now begins to “build out” the Park to

fulfill the vision of promoting a variety of arts and cultural experiences that enrich the entire community and holding those in a unique, natural park that becomes “**Columbia’s Central Park**”. The concept includes gazebos, picnic areas and sculpture/art that is fun for all ages. The entries to the park will include four different over water crossings that preserve the creeks and allow a gateway into the wooded areas. The terraces and ridgeline areas will also include a colonnade that is next to Merriweather Post Pavilion that will allow families and people to gather and enjoy the park.

Mr. Broida asked that more picnic areas be included, more trees be preserved/added, golf carts/jitneys be added for transportation and that the park be ADA accessible for all residents. Ms. Basu assured Mr. Broida that all those would be considered.

Ms. Basu asked the Board to support the project, support all State and County grants that have been submitted and support it getting funded as quickly as possible so that it becomes an amenity to the community.

CA FY22 Budget Update: Running Brook, Amenities (Haven, Golf) and Charge Share

Mr. Locke noted that the Columbia Association recently released their FY22 Draft Budget to all Villages and the public. He noted that there was a lot of discussion on pool closures especially the plan to close Running Brook for summer 2021. Ms. Foehrkolb noted that the CA Board elected to keep the Running Brook pool open. She thanked Ms Eagan for being the advocate to convince CA staff to keep Running Brook open as it is the closest pool to Town Center.

Decisions on amenities will be made by the CA Board over the next few weeks. Ms. Eagan noted that the CA Board has gotten more letters/comments in support of Haven On The Lake.

New Town Visioning

Mr. Locke reported that the consultants released their 400-page report to the Columbia Association. The major findings were: 1) need for more affordable housing now; 2) diversity within the community needs to be improved; 3) connectivity within the community needs to be improved through activities, amenities, arts, better transportation/access, and culture; and 4) governance for planning/building is too cumbersome and restrictive. The CA Board will address the report as will the Howard County General Plan and/or County Council. Ms. Eagan noted that another consulting group noted that the County needs 30-40,000 more residents to build a tax base and more infrastructure.

Roslyn Rise Update

Mr. Locke noted that Enterprise Community Partners presented the new plan for Roslyn Rise to the Wilde Lake Board in January. The project is on track for a 2023 opening. Mr. Broida and Mr. Dworkin asked that the PowerPoint deck be sent to them for review. (Note: sent via email following the meeting with the New Town consultant’s report).

Town Center Elections

Ms. Foehrkolb asked for an update. Mr. Locke noted that two applications have been received for the TCCA Board. Mr. Hibbard reviewed and approved the election packet. Mr. Locke will send information to Mr. Hibbard to send to the candidates. Mr. Locke asked the Board if they wanted to do electronic/absentee voting if there is a contested election. Ms. Foehrkolb noted that it should be cost effective.

Mr. Hibbard commented on the Rouse Project and noted that it is a grassroots effort whose

purpose was to get all ages of Columbia residents involved from younger to older in the voting and election process. He noted that the group was looking for more diversity on the CA Board and for it to be more interactive in the community and tout its positive accomplishments. Ms. Eagan commented that we would all like more diversity and more interaction with the community on the part of CA.

Board and Staff Reports

Board Chairperson's Report

Ms. Foehrkolb hosted a HOA Board Presidents Meeting on January 16. She noted that the following were discussed: safety, how to build community with activities such as food trucks in Vantage Point Park or Banneker and what is a Condo/HOA community and how can we better understand condo living.

The Downtown Columbia Partnership announced: a Spring Bike Around on May 15 and 16, a drive in movie at Sterrett Place on March 13 with the Charmery, Books in Bloom will be a hybrid event with part in June and part in September, there is a survey going out the week of February 15 to essential workers regarding transportation, the scooter rollout with Spin is going slowly and is a test, Marlow is breaking ground in the Merriweather District with 472 units (30 affordable units) and will open in Fall 2022, Howard Hughes (HHC) is looking for an HR Director (Culture and People), Howard Hughes' lease with Ms. Laura Bacon was not signed, the old visitor center building may possibly be moved up in HHC plans for re-development, Jessica Feldmark is the new Howard County liaison for the Downtown Partnership and the County Executive, May 12 is the opening for LIDL in the Mall, and Godiva is closing all US stores.

Columbia Council Report

Ms. Eagan reported that the CA Board is involved in the search for the new CA President with the search company. Over 80 candidates were vetted, and the list was narrowed to about 15. Next week the list will be narrowed to four or five and interviews will be conducted. CA wants to have an Executive Director in place by the end of March. Looking for a visionary that will work on the relationship with the villages and overall community. She noted that there is an information session for potential CA Board Members on February 20. The Board approved the Inner Arbor Trust (IAT) Concept Plan. The Board is working on redoing the easement with the IAT. IAT has sourced grants through the State to keep IAT operating. Symphony Woods booked most weekend through the Spring. The CA Budget review continues this week and next week. CA budget vote is end of February. The big issues are the reserve fund, operational issues and what will stay open and what will close in terms of amenities.

Manager's Report

Mr. Locke reported that the scooter program winning bidder was Spin who is the largest operator of scooter programs in the US and has locations in Washington, DC, Baltimore, and Arlington. The County approved up to 200 scooters for the one-year test beginning around March 15. Approximately 100 scooters will be included in the test at the start with charging stations in places such as the Mall and Howard Hughes facilities in the Merriweather District. Maximum speed is 15 MPH, and each scooter is classified as a bicycle and can operate on both roads and pathways. In the Village Manager meeting the Rouse Project was discussed with CA staff and others.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Dworkin noted that the Metropolitan seems to be having a façade issue. Mr. Fitzgerald mentioned that there is work going on to replace panels around the building that have had water infiltration issues. Mr. Dworkin asked about whether the golf courses are advertised outside the County. Ms. Eagan said that they have a lot of golf tournaments but was not sure about the advertising. Mr. Hibbard asked about the leasing occupancies in the Downtown area with Juniper being built. Mr. Fitzgerald noted the Metropolitan is about 95% occupied, Ms. Foehrkolb noted that Juniper was about 50%. Ms. Eagan commented that the community is struggling with layoffs/job loss and that as a village we should address more social issues in the community. Mr. Broida commented that the IAT presentation by Ms. Nina Basu was excellent. He also noted that the Little Free Pantry is being used and drawing from other villages. Mr. Broida noted he is concerned about COVID continuing through 2021 with the variants and, when we are going to get back to a semblance of normal. Ms. Eagan mentioned that Board involvement with IAT can wait a little but that we should work with our Council members on the next budget and any funding for IAT and the Park.

Adjournment of Meeting

Ms. Foehrkolb made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dworkin, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting of the Town Center Village Board adjourned at 9:03 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Town Center Village Board will be Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Recorded and attested to by:



Lyn Locke, Secretary/Treasurer

Date 3/10/21