

**Board of Brookdale Citizens' Association
Minutes of Meeting on October 23, 2023**

Members in attendance: Dick Podolske, Jack Morton, Darcy King-Leatham, Mike Makuch, Maha Haddad, Peter Bierksteker, and Adrienne Nassau

Absent: Mat Paccinelli, Manuel Ochoa and Heather Paul.

Guest: Joe Breslin.

Administrative

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

A motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded and approved.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the September meeting. The motion was approved.

Next meeting will be held on November 20 at at 7 pm.

Treasurer's report

Total assets equal \$12,896.73 of which \$2,947.05 is in a checking account and \$9,949.68 is in a CD. This month we had expenses of \$1,014.54 defrayed by Dominique's \$1,000 contribution for Porchfest. Roughly 30% of residents have paid dues for 2023. There will be additional pleas for dues payment with the distribution of the directories and The Bugle.

Timing and content of the Bugle

Editor Abner Oakes announced that he wants submissions for next the Bugle by December 1st. He intends to go to print by December 18 and distribute by December 25.

Discussion of traffic concerns

A number of residents have complained about speeding traffic on Park Avenue and Westport. Joe Breslin contacted the county to ask if they could make the intersection at Dalton and Westport a four-way stop. Their initial response was negative, claiming the average traffic speed was 18 mph and 80% of traffic at the intersection is from Westport which is too imbalanced to necessitate a 4-way stop. Joe will research whether we can appeal that decision. Several Board members noted that they were seeing more cut-through speeding traffic by drivers seeking to avoid intersection of Western and River. Dick promised he would ask for "local traffic only" signs to be installed on Saratoga off River, Newport off River, Park off Western and Cortland off Western. He will also ask for "20 mph" signs to be installed south of Keokok on Park. Someone raised the idea of installing speed bumps. The County has been unwilling to install speed bumps. Someone asked whether it made sense to request cross hatching on Dalton between two halves of park but idea was dismissed as there is no curb. Dick said that incorporated municipalities have more autonomy than we do but that the Board did not pursue it as it would involve hiring our own police and waste management.

Cross-hatching on Western at Harrison. Dick will nag authorities again.

Events

Porchfest was a success. We raised over \$2000 for Carpe Diem Arts. Next year's tentative Porchfest date is October 12.

A Halloween parade will be led by Dick in Marie Moylan's car. Dick will send out reminders on the list serve. Rich Lucas has already posted signs. Dick, Jack and Mike will judge decorations.

Boundary Park cleaning of sidewalks along Western Avenue. Dick received assurances that the sidewalks will be cleared.

Design of new signs. Our signs have been vandalized repeatedly. Jack said he would investigate purchasing vandal-proof signs.

Brookdale at Home events

Eric Sanne and Mike Makuch will present at Eric's home on December 7 at 7 pm.

Dick will reach out to Manuel to ask if Friendship Alliance is willing to co-sponsor staging a filming of Maha's film.

Deborah Kalb's book. Dick will ask Marie if she would like to host the event in February.

Eric wants to do a presentation on AI (artificial intelligence). Tentatively in March.

Adding Abner to Brookdale Board. We cannot nominate and elect a new board member until our annual meeting so we will encourage him to attend meetings. Meetings are open to all residents.

Development issues.

-Adrienne is trying to set up meeting with Mazza Gallerie builders.

-Adrienne said that GEICO has not been responsive to her on the need to trim trees. She, Dick and Joe will schedule a meeting to press the issue.

Lord and Taylor site. Dick, Adrienne, Heather and Darcy met with Margaret Lenzner of Ward 3 for a tour of the site. According to Margaret, DC Planning has issued visionary documents that does not indicate any clear decisions on the part of WMATA or developers. It appears WMATA has purchased the site. Heather pointed out that we should compose a letter soon to both DC Planning and Montgomery Planning related to traffic patterns and any other concerns. She suggested that we share the letter on the list serve to inform the community. Darcy will ask CCCFH for suggestions on contacts.

-Friendship Heights Urban Design Study is holding public meetings on October 24.

-Peter Biersteker shared his notes on the September 21, 2023 Virtual Meeting with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) on Its River Road Corridor Safety Study. This presentation will be made available to the public on the District 3 page of the MDOT website by November 2023. <https://roads.maryland.gov/mdotsha/pages/Districts.aspx?did=d3&>. The focus of the study was the safety of the 0.75-mile stretch of River Road from the Little Falls Parkway to Springfield Drive, particularly for cyclists and pedestrians. That segment of River Road handles 25,000 vehicles daily. It has four signaled intersections, six unsignaled intersections, 22 uncontrolled access points, and 10 bus stops, which pose a number of challenges. The exercise was undertaken in the wake of the tragic death of cyclist on River Road near American Plant on August 25, 2023. While nobody reasonably could object to safety improvements in the studied portion of River Road, the exercise is completely ad hoc. That is, it is focused on improving the safety of that portion of River Road alone, principally for pedestrians and cyclists, in a vacuum.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Darcy King-Leatham