



**Owen Brown Village Board Meeting
February 20, 2018 7:00 p.m.
Owen Brown Community Association
6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045**

Approved: 3/6/18

The Board of Directors of the Owen Brown Community Association, Inc. conducted its regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Owen Brown Community Center, 6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045.

Present: Board Chair, Jason Milner; Vice-Chair, Pearl Atkinson-Stewart; Board Members, Bob Braine, Wayne Eldridge (arrived 7:45 pm), CA Representative, Andy Stack (arrived 8:30 pm); and OBCA Manager Craig Barton.

1. Call to Order

Jason called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

2. Approval of agenda

Bob motioned to approve. Pearl seconded. All in favor.

3. Approval of minutes

Approval of the February 6, 2018 Minutes – Motioned by Pearl. Bob seconded. All in favor.

4. Invited Guest

Jennifer Zinn, Principal at Cradlerock Elementary, came to request a donation to continue the programming that was started last school year. Implementing the program last year proved to be a rewarding experience for both students and staff. The program increased exposure to organized supports programs for many of our students, increased opportunities for social skills development and sportsmanship, strengthened community partnership, and provided professional learning for our recess staff. In addition, she requested assistance with supplemental funds to defray the cost for students who need financial support for field trips.

Grace Fielhauer, Special Assistant to County Executive, came as part of the constituent services team. Grace introduced Larry Twele, CEO of the EDA, who spoke about the long-term plan of making Gateway Industrial Park into an Innovation District. Grace informed the Board about the upcoming meeting on Feb. 28 regarding the widening of Snowden River Parkway. She also stated the improvements to the East Columbia Library fields should begin in the fall. There are plans in place to add a bike lane to Oakland Mills road and widening of some parts. There are no plans to expand the bike patrol at this point, nor are there plans for sidewalks to go in on Dobbin Lane.

5. Resident Speak Out

Ms. Maura Watson, resident, came to request assistance from the Board, regarding recent covenant violation notices. The Board referred the matter back to staff to correct.

6. Election Committee Appointments

Motion by Pearl to approve residents, Kelly Carney, as Chair, Janet Loughran and Alissa Fedele to the election committee. Wayne seconded. All in favor.

7. Discussions

FY18 Goals Review – The Board reviewed the progress of the goals for the year.

Change to Employee Manual – Motion by Bob to adopt the proposed change to the employee manual, adding a new section on unpaid sick and safe leave for employees working under 20 hours per week, but at least 12 hours per week. Seconded by Pearl. All members in favor.

Board Appointment – The Board agreed to meet with each of the candidates individually on March 3, from 2-4 pm.

8. Reports

Village Manager (*Craig Barton*)

- County to hold meeting on Feb. 28, 5-7 pm, Hammond High re the widening of Snowden River Parkway.
- Next events on March 24: Columbia Cleanup and Spring Fling.
- Volunteer Dinner on April 26

CA Rep (*Andy Stack*) *Submitted in writing*

1. Attended the grand re-opening of the East Columbia Library. There were about 75 people in attendance with many elected officials. The renovated library is quite nice.
2. The Howard County Planning Board will discuss the new Downtown Cultural Center on March 1st. The new Downtown Cultural Center will be built on the site of Toby's Dinner Theatre. It will consist of a new dinner theater, new black-box theater, other cultural amenities, and about 192 new apartments together with a 730 car parking garage. It will be built in several phases with the new dinner theater in the first phase. Toby's will remain open throughout the construction of Phase 1.
3. The CA Board vote on the FY-2019/FY-2020 budgets will occur on Thursday, Feb 22nd. Some of the items to be discussed and decided include how much to spend on ponds/watershed projects, changes to Haven, the grant to Inner Arbor Trust to build a pathway in Symphony Woods (proposed pathway would now go from the multi-use pathway along Little Patuxent Parkway to the Chrysalis - it would be ADA compliant), the increase in rates, the repairs to the overpass over Harpers Farm Road, repairs to the Horse Center facilities, repairs/upgrades to Stonehouse and the Art Center, and Lakefront Plaza Master design and

improvements. The Annual Charge will remain as in FY-2018 (no changes).

4. CA staff has written a charter for a new advisory committee to be called the Climate Change & Sustainability Advisory Committee. The charter looks good and expect the CA Board to approve it. The Watershed Advisory Committee will continue to exist.

5. CA is implementing changes required to meet the new MD sick leave law.

6. The Howard County Planning Board will continue to discuss HHC's Lakefront Core Neighborhood proposal on March 15th.

7. The Howard County Zoning Board will consider Kimco's proposal to redevelopment the Hickory Ridge Village Center on Feb 28th.

8. The O.B. tennis courts will probably convert two into pickleball courts.

10. Board Comments

Pearl – Attended the library's preview opening. Very nicely done. Inquired on the status of the Chair forwarding all closed meeting files to the Secretary of the corporation.

Wayne – Also attended the library's preview opening. Encouraged the board to wear their board shirts to meetings and wondered about how other members are using their Surface Pros.

Bob – Was glad to hear about the plans to improve Gateway.

Jason – Thanked the guest for attending the meeting.

11. Previous Action items were reviewed.

12. Review of action items for next meeting

Staff

1. Invite Councilwoman Jen Terrasa and Officer Cortez to the March 20 meeting.
2. Add Cradlerock Elementary donation request to next meeting agenda.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Bob; Seconded by Wayne. All in favor. Adjourned at 9:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Barton
Village Manager/Board Secretary