

Baldwin Civic Association
General Body Meeting
March 9, 2023, 7:30 pm
Baldwin High School

Meeting Minutes

Officer Reports

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm by President Malone

- Recording Secretary
 - Adoption of Minutes-adopted by majority vote
 - Calendar for 2023-erika reviewed the handout

Introduction of eboard members for new members/attendees

- Corresponding Secretary
 - Updates
 - Social media-fb updates with complete streets and DRI; heavy social media running car theft, atlantic and grand, shooting on jefferson; police cruisers visibility at dollar tree but not a lot in the community
 - Drug house on lydia place. Place that is devastated and the police don't show up (virtual attendee). Connect her to Rodney, quality of life.
 - Quality of life issue. We want to follow-up with resource officer
 - Resource officer will attend general body meetings every other month
- Treasurer Report:
 - Bank Account -Capital One
 - Beginning Balance: \$19568.86
 - Debits: \$629.55
 - Deposit/credits: \$10
 - Ending Balance: \$1849.31
 - Paypal(income)
 - Beginning Balance: \$188.16
 - 6 new members

- Ending Balance: \$736.36

Total Balance: \$19695. 67

- Process of budget draft so that line by line budget. We are looking at a deficit. Switching banks to bethpage federal credit union so we can earn interest
- President/Vice President Report
 - Police Commissioner's BHM Event on 2/16/23
 - Mark and Kim attended this event. Commissioner shared with them a lot of the activities the police were doing in our neighborhood to make things better and be more transparent. Such as additional training of police and use of body cameras. With cameras they have said it has resulted in better interactions. Learned police curse a lot. Commissioner confirmed they will work on that. When police pull someone over they are supposed to introduce themselves and indicate that they are recording for the safety of both parties. They are receiving training on site interactions to teach individuals on the spot
 - Mark: commissioners and chiefs were open and honest. He expressed his concerns about how community members are being perceived in general. The Commissioner acknowledged it.
 - Did he say anything about the crossing guard issues? Meta brought it up. BCA brought up the pay scale was \$25 per hour and he said they were going to make it more appealing with benefits.
 - Meta working with the county legislature and the police budget for crossing guard new hires to get benefits. Still need a list of candidates because of attrition and people have retired. If residents have issues please send a list.
 - Elissa. Residents need to be nicer to the crossing guards. Not screaming at them or not stopping when children are crossing. Seen kids almost get hit because of 3 point turns and crossing guards are trying to protect our children. Meta-almost been hit trying to get to the high school. Officers at the crossing guard post can't leave their post.
 - Police Commissioner's Council

- BCA is now participating. Rodney and Mark will be on this council moving forward
 - Meta is on the first precinct council. It was put on hold due to covid. It was very successful in the past. She asked the commissioner about it. He said he was interested but his model was to have a round robin throughout the precincts. We want to really focus on our community issue and first precinct. especially with all that is going on with redistricting. Kim chimed in that she agreed about this.
 - **Action item: Mark to inquire about the first precinct council.**
- South Hempstead Civic Association
 - Marguerite attended their meeting. They have been kept whole for the county and possibly the TOH. It was a fact finding mission. Baldwin was on his own.
 - Reached out to Fred Brewington office to join the lawsuit. (this was a suggestion by a member to join on to a lawsuit). Karen was reaching out to another attorney to inquire about it, what were the details, timeline and the cost factor so that we can make a decision as a group. Membership feedback?
 - I think we should absolutely especially in name and not money
 - Pearl Jacobs from Uniondale spoke about TOH separating them at hempstead turnpike. Kellenberg and another place was cut out of uniondale. Goosby voting in favor of dividing the minority community
 - Kim spoke about being at the last TOH hearing. At the meeting people inquired about when they were voting. Once public comment was done they immediately voted and the Town board voted unanimously to approve the maps
 - Brewington proposed maps that split Uniondale.
 - For Baldwin we want to keep things whole
 - Difficult when you have to keep the places a certain size. Villages can't be split so they look to hamlets to break them up
 - 54 communities kept whole, 2 were split and ours was one of them

- Meta: be careful about joining lawsuit. Check bylaws. Wouldn't agree with BCA participating in a lawsuit
 - Need to get folks registered to vote. It is crucial. County maps aren't as bad. 30-40 people in Malverne showed up and advocated. Plainview and Old Bethpage was present and within 24 hours they were kept whole. Presiding officer did not understand why people were upset yet 15/19 districts impacted are predominantly democratic
 - Attended hearing and Brewington did have a sign up list where Baldwin residents signed up to be plaintiffs (resident and first time attendee)
 - Recommended everyone watch Nassau County legislature meeting recording with Paul Bua speaking about maps and redistricting
- Debra Mule - Presentation
 - Baldwin is LD5 and LD1 new it would LD6
 - She is still representing Baldwin. Has less of Freeport
 - If a lawsuit goes forward everything could be up in the air
 - Thank you for participating in blood drive
 - Upcoming events-March 22nd: mobile mammogram, requires sign up and prescription. If not enough people sign up, they will sign up. A van
 - Summer:
 - national night out at the high school. First tuesday in August
 - Silver Lake: arts series events through the out summer
 - Joining with BCA Economic Development for the Bike Rodeo in May
 - Meta Mereday honored for Women's History Month. Advocate for MWBE, SDVOB. Presented with a Citation by Debra Mule

Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Reports

- Economic Development:
 - Cash Mob - 1st restaurant is Grill Basil Leaf - working on flyer
 - Updates
 - Bike Rodeo & Bike Parade. Mapped out a possible route. Has a map for folks to look at. In collaboration with TOH, vision LI, Let's Move LI, county, police. May is national bike month, get people moving. A second one in September.
 - Kim explained the goals of these events.. promote community. Support businesses. Sustainability. Hope we will have bike lanes in Baldwin.
 - Cash Mob. working on details with the owner. Have raffle baskets. Have to work out the logistics. He will get the flyer out next week.
 - Kim explained during the pandemic we picked a night to patronize businesses especially restaurants, eat together
 - Question on the floor about getting reports from Baldwin Chamber of Commerce. Goal is to have a liaison that attends our meetings and attend their meetings as well.
 - Marguerite and Kim met with the incoming president before they got installed. Open lines of communication.
 - Elissa mentioned 7-11 that closed was robbed
- Government Liaison:
 - Redistricting Updates
 - We are in one district. We are still with Legislator Mule
 - TOH they were going to split us at thomas avenue which I could kind of see. Instead they ended up splitting us at sunrise hwy. Splitting DRI, overlay zone and library districts. She argued with them. Puts us in Goosby district to the north and to the south we are in there with oceanside where there is no representative
 - Vision Long Island Albany trip rescheduled to March 14
 - Bus slid off the road prior to the trip starting. LI lobby coalition. Find common ground from the different communities. Affordable housing is one of the issues. They aren't against this just against mandates. Packaging-when we do recycling TOH pays for it. They want the producers to pay for that.

- Facade

- Gone to Commissioner Rottkamp TOH DRI. The revolving loan is not in the final DRI. Kim said it was not true. Facade program is moving forward. Spoke with the person doing the branding (facade and revolving loan fund should be one in the same). She will go back to Matthew Hersh. Spoke to nicki jones who is doing the branding. What she is thinking is not so bad because he was . she might meet with nicki and discuss things. There is a whole thing about sweet baldwin. Made mention of Pear farm and peach farm. Seems like there may be an opportunity for BCA to get involved. Rottkamp originally said that business owners would make the updates and then community members can tell them what they think about. Karen said that would create confrontation.

- What does the facade program cover?

- Willy: more cohesive feel and awnings. Getting businesses to reface their businesses on grand avenue

- DRI portion of the Baldwin

- Meta Meraday said then it leaves out other portion of Baldwin

- We want all of baldwin to look cohesive and aesthetic pleasing

- Kim said during Vision Long Island meeting saw grants from National Grid, PSEG and others and we should put in for grants that can be used for north Baldwin

- Karen: Some businesses have found difficulties with the facade program. Certain contractors. Cost prohibitive. Etc. It is a matching grant.

- Low awareness about the program for other communities

- Beautification:

- Updates

- Geocaching 5 or 6 with kids. Presentation on it at the garden last summer. App on the kids on the phone. Like pokemon.

- Food truck Fridays will start, first Friday of May will probably be the first one. 2 or 3 food trucks. Music by members. 5pm to 8pm.
 - Member asked about local restaurants & county rules Hope to have local businesses especially Baldwin but keeping open to other LI businesses
 - Baldwin civic fest at the Garden. Will probably be June, date may change 10th. Fee for members. Fee for non members. Food trucks. Arts & crafts. Music.
 - Adopting planters for the ones that are still there. Lost 3 or 4. Dui, and two other auto accidents. With the revitalization of grand ave, once completed will put new planters along grand ave. call to action for community members to join beautification and/or offer ideas
 - Working with chair of girls scouts to do things around baldwin as well to help them with service hours
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- Fundraising:
 - Updates
 - Spring Fling in April. April 8th
 - **Sheree isn't here, will send out an update via email since we won't meet until after the event**
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- Membership/Website
 - Updates
 - 107 members; partially need to get their money for 2023. 50 are on subscription.
 - Community Engagement Series
 - Normally a series of events with experts discussing things that are important to us.
 - What to do if you are stopped by a police officer? Attended previously very well by high school seniors.
 - Claudia Rotondo effects of medications and drugs by seniors. She was in a car accident and is currently in rehab.
 - Chris Tomasell former board member, environmental consultant, one on groundwater because we have some places in Baldwin that are tainted.
 - Good to have a session on how best to engage with TOH either your representative or someone from the department.
 - History of Baldwin in conjunction with the historical society.
 - Years ago we did a video that was handled by high school and with the intent to have the students interview people. Ended up being the advisor conducting the interview. Rob

- would would like to see an updated one done, historical society and community,
 - Elissa: make it an event with people dressing up. At the historical society.
 - Locations have been at fire department, library and event space
 - Meta: Kellogg house, connection to that, veteran connection. Losing out on money. How to fix up and restore a historical landmark. Suggestion: Do a training for veteran, widows etc about resources available to them.
 - Working on the website. Can use help. **Call to action for volunteers.**
 - Suggestion: Talk with high school about the IT department and outreach for community service. Set up internship
- Quality of Life:
 - Updates
 - Quality of life email. TOH contacted about garbage being left at the train station. Criminal activity on their block, contacted TOH and first precinct
- Bylaws Committee
 - Updates
 - Bylaws: up on website on the about us page Updated for pandemic allowances like
 - **Action: we will email out the marked up one so that at our April meeting we can make the vote**

New Business

-5K charity run walk, March 25th at 10am. March is kidney cancer. Young 28 yr old former bhs student. In his honor. Flyers left. Hosting organization M2square college to career. This is a community (mckinsey and magnus). Run by mother daughter teams. M2square associates. 200 people signed up as runners/walkers.

Question from the floor: Will BCA take a stand on Sands Casino. Will they educate Baldwin members and impact?

- Kim: Not immediately in our backyard but still important. BCA Members have mixed views. Collecting data. Attending hearings. Pearl. Need to vote next month.
- Meta mereday TOH walked through the process. We are now with Garden City due to redistricting

- Pearl-garden city is mostly against this. Passed a resolution. People are being paid off.
- **Kim: Eboard will discuss it and bring it back to the general body.**

Kim motions to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm. Karen and Mark second