



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK ASSOCIATION

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2022

Board members present: *(asterisk indicates not present)*

President – Ben Nemo	Social Media – Kristen Pollock
Vice President – Donald Campbell	Webmaster – Grant Davies
Secretary – Brandon Dhande	Events – Ryan Murphy*
Treasurer – Marc Tammes	Zoning – Rebekah Falkler
Membership – Sarah Chatel	Legal – Josh Kirschner*
Business Partnerships – Mark Smith	Communications – Marla Johnson
Security – Phyllis Wingo	Traffic – Camille Richardson
Parks – Holly Sasnett, Micah Coleman	Member-at-Large – Ashley Milam

Call to Order and Welcome.

Ben Nemo called the Zoom meeting to order and opened the floor to discussion topics.

Initial discussions included:

- City Council Member Alex Wan joined to share information about several important topics:
 - Cheshire Bridge is on schedule and may partially open by October 31. Some mitigation measures will be in place to deter activities under the bridge, to help prevent against future fires.
 - City Council is working with the Mayor's office on infrastructure bonds. Member Wan will work with MLPA and related groups to prioritize shovel-ready parks projects.
 - North Highland Road construction segment (in front of fire station) should have work completed soon.
 - Upcoming discussion about commercial property assessment; with concern that commercial properties are significantly undervalued. With property values increasing, everyone needs to be assessed their fair share.
- Minutes approved from September meeting. Motion to approve passed unanimously.
- Discussion about Mission and Vision statements for MLPA, which are close to final form. Related workstreams include website updates, design work on logo standards, and updated communications usage.



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- Some discussion among Board members about duration and start/stop timing of business sponsorships for 2023. Further discussion may be more appropriate for a smaller group.
- No new licenses for review since last meeting.
- November meeting (Annual Meeting, November 14) will be conducted virtually for various reasons, including increase in COVID cases and related considerations.
 - For the virtual annual meeting, procedures will be in place to ensure participants are MLPA members for voting purposes.
- Discussion about Nominating Committee activities for 2023 MLPA Board.
- Funding proposal from Ben regarding Sunken Garden Park, to fund a design/vision plan for when funds are available. Ben has approached design firms who provided similar services in the neighborhood. Proposal to designate up to \$20k, with feedback from Friends Group for the park and immediate neighbors for feedback.
 - Vote unanimous in favor, without opposition or abstaining members.
- **Zoning Topics**
 - Rebekah provided this update:
 - One new zoning application, 150 Courtenay Court.
 - Application is for a setback variance to build screen porch on rear of property, as well as an extended entrance for walkway and railing into the residence.
 - Zoning visit occurred with no concerns from those who attended.
 - No neighbors have raised issues with the variance.
- **Financials & Membership Topics**
 - Marc updated the Board:
 - Cash position remains strong. Marc is exploring options for the Association to earn interest on cash reserves until needed.
- **Security Topics**
 - Phyllis discussed these items:
 - We are coordinating with the Virginia Highland Association (and possibly other neighborhood associations) on several support initiatives:
 - Annual appreciation meals for police officers (possibly purchased



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from DBA Barbecue)

- Discussion about a community action committee for Zone 6 with Major Webster, to discuss issues unique to the neighborhoods.
- Supporting facility needs for Zone 6 police precinct, including plans for supplying meeting tables and racks for water cooler jugs. Other needs include painting/plastering walls and assistance for neighborhood narratives at the precinct.
 - Proposal to approve up to \$2,000 for the above-mentioned support initiatives, including the annual meals and efforts to improve the environment of the precinct with new tables and shelving for the water cooler jugs:
 - Vote unanimous in favor, without opposition or abstaining members.

- **Technology Topics**

- Grant provided the following updates:
 - Exploring the possibility of using Gmail for email and related services for MLPA; addresses would stay the same, would include Google Groups and meeting/conferencing services and Google Drive access. Cost is about \$1k/year. HostGator subscription for the website ends in April 2023.
 - Discussion about the MLPA website design/support and related vendors, including capabilities and costs.

- **Membership Topics**

- Sarah provided updates on the following items:
 - Meeting as a committee to distribute new packets for new neighbors
 - November 1st is membership drive

- **Parks Topics**

- Holly shared updates on the following:
 - Discussion about updates to Daniel Johnson Park
 - Upcoming park cleanup for Sidney Marcus Park

- **Traffic and Master Plan Topics**

- Camille discussed the following items:
 - Recent meeting of Master Plan Implementation Committee.



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- Desire to have in person meeting to connect with community, at a local restaurant:
 - Proposal: Approve up to \$2k for event to engage with the community on these issues.
Vote unanimous in favor, without opposition or abstaining members.
- Upcoming discussions about Monroe Road diet development

- **Communications Topics**

- No updates for this meeting.

Concluding notes:

- Discussion about tennis courts at Wildwood Park.
- Upcoming historical photos of MLP to be included in future newsletter additions.
Request for photographs of different streets

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