



Oakland Mills Community Association Village Board Meeting Minutes

The Other Barn ~ 5851 Robert Oliver Place ~ Columbia, MD 21045

Board Members: Abby Hendrix, Chair ~ Margaret Mauro, Vice Chair ~ Brian Donoughe, AC Chair ~ Reginald Avery ~ Phil Engelke ~ Kristin Huza ~ Julia McCready ~ Marcia White
Alex Hekimian, Columbia Council Representative

January 10, 2012

OMCA BoD Meeting

Ms. Hendrix called the meeting to order at 7:51 p.m.

Attendees: Abby Hendrix, Board Chair, Margaret Mauro, Vice Chair, Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager; Brigitta Warren, OM Events and Administrative Coordinator, Brian Donoughe, AC Chair, Marcia White, Julia McCready, Reginald Avery, Phil Engelke, Kristin Huza, Frederick Eiland, OM Community Organizer.

Opening of Meeting

Ms. White motioned that the agenda for January 10, 2012 (ATTACHMENT "A") be approved. **Ms. McCready** seconded and the motion passed (7-0-0).

Mr. Avery motioned that the minutes for December 13, 2011 (ATTACHMENT "B") be approved as written. **Mr. Engelke** seconded and the motion passed (7-0-0).

New Business

Aquatics Master Plan Discussion

Ms. Cederbaum stated that the Public Review Draft of the Aquatic Master Plan will be out January 17, 2012, but nothing should change regarding the Talbott Springs Pool. She asked if the OMCA Board would like to have Jane Dembner come and address the Board at the next Board meeting. January 31, 2012 will be the last time for public comment. **Ms. Hendrix** stated that she would like the Board to make minor modifications before submitting to the CA Board.

Hekimian stated that it would be helpful to review demographic information about the Talbott Springs neighborhood. (See ATTACHMENT "C") and he referred to a Columbia-wide 2009 survey that showed residents' funding priorities as being very high for open space and neighborhood pools. According to the demographic information, Talbott Springs has the highest population of any neighborhood in Oakland Mills and the highest percentage of individuals 17 years and younger in Oakland Mills. Also, the median age of residents in Talbott Springs is lowest in Columbia other than River Hill, meaning that there are a lot of young families in that neighborhood who would benefit from continued availability of the Talbott Springs pool. The Talbott Springs pool has been neglected over the years in terms of upgrades to the facility. Further discussion of the Talbott Springs information took place. There was no standard set by CA as to what "sparsely used"

means. In areas of Columbia where the population's income is lower, there is lower attendance at the pools, but more can be done to attract users to those pools by reducing fees, and adding amenities to the existing pools as was done for the Hopewell pool in Owen Brown.

Ms. Cederbaum handed out the portion of the draft Master Plan (not final draft) recommendations for OM pools. The Task Force and staff made recommendations. **Mr. Hekimian** has heard that the Task Force is split in half as to whether to close the Talbott Springs and Faulkner Ridge pools, but he personally feels there is not anything for CA to gain by closing the pools.

Ms. Hendrix asked if the Board had questions.

Ms. White wanted to know why it was being recommended that the Thunder Hill wading pool be replaced. **Ms. White** and **Ms. Cederbaum** both felt that this was a bad idea.

Mr. Engelke asked why a comprehensive survey had not been done. **Ms. Hendrix** stated that we should look into doing a survey. **Mr. Avery** pointed out that once we start closing amenities like pools, other amenities will follow and close as well. Closing the pool sets a bad precedent.

Ms. McCready stated that by closing the pool it sends the message that the people who visit the pool do not count. **Ms. White** felt that if the savings represented by closing suggested pools are accurate; the CA could probably come up with more creative ways to save money. **Ms. Hendrix** indicated that 5 houses on her street were just sold to young families with children. The community deserves to have something.

An agreement was made for **Ms. Cederbaum** to ask Jane Dembner to come to the January 24th Board meeting to focus specifically on Aquatics issue.

CA FY13/FY14 Budget Hearing

Ms. Cederbaum asked if any Board member would be willing to testify at the CA hearing on January 25, 2012 regarding OM budget requests. **Ms. Hendrix** volunteered to go. **Ms. Cederbaum** will send information to **Ms. Hendrix** before the meeting.

Ms. Cederbaum specified two items that were not in the original list. She would like to have an outdoor security camera as well as a revisit of the indoor security cameras as she feels they are inadequate. She would also like to request an outdoor storage Shed.

Ms. Hendrix asked what the CA had questions about. The OMCA Board should testify about the Community Organizer position, the Talbott Springs' pool, ADA accessibility, \$4 and \$2 entry fee for OM residents, a Hispanic interpreter for the Columbia Swims program, Tot lots, the pathways signage and the "poop" bags. Items that should be added to the testimony are to assess the security of both inside and outside The Other Barn and the outside shed for storage.

Mr. Avery motioned to include in the budget testimony to the CA the assessment of security camera usage both inside and outside of The Other Barn. **Mr. Engelke** seconded and the motion passed (7-0-0).

Ms. White motioned to include in the budget testimony to CA an outside shed for storage. **Ms. McCready** seconded and the motion passed (7-0-0).

Ms. Hendrix indicated she would thank the CA for what they have agreed to and ask for additional requests. **Mr. Hekimian** stated that, based on the OM Board's discussions this evening, OM could ask that the Talbott Springs pool shell be replaced and amenities added to the existing pool.

Mr. Avery agreed to go and support **Ms. Hendrix** at the testimony. **Ms. Hendrix** indicated that as many Board members that are available should try to come to testimony.

Board Chair Report

Ms. Hendrix stated she had received a thank you card to the OMCA Board from Judy and Phil Dopkowski for their holiday bonuses. She also received a thank you card from the Grassroots Day Resource Center. She passed both of them around for the Board to read.

Manager's Report

Ms. Cederbaum distributed her report. (ATTACHMENT "D")

Mr. Avery motioned that the 2012 Oakland Mills Association Election Calendar be approved as written. **Mr. Donoughe** seconded and the motion passed (7-0-0).

Ms. McCready motioned to approve the 2012 Election Monitor Committee. **Mr. Avery** seconded and the motion passed (7-0-0).

Ms. Cederbaum discussed a Facility Policy from 2006 that allowed OMCA Board and Staff members to use the facility for a personal event. **Mr. Avery** had requested use of The Other Barn for a personal event on a Wednesday evening. **Mr. Engelke** motioned for the Board to approve Mr. Avery's use of the facility. **Ms. White** seconded and the motion passed (7-0-0).

Ms. Cederbaum distributed a "Conflict of Interest Policy" sheet that needs to be signed and on file for each Board member. She asked that the Board members let her know if they have any questions and to return signed sheets to her as soon as possible.

Ms. White motioned for the "Whistleblower Policy" to be included in the Oakland Mills Association Handbook. **Ms. McCready** seconded and the motion passed (7-0-0).

Ms. Hendrix asked a question about number 5 on the "Conflict of Interest Policy" form. What is the definition of "Independent Director" in the "Conflict of Interest Policy?"

Columbia Council Rep

Mr. Hekimian stated he had a very busy month. The CA will meet with County Council and the County Executive on January 19, 2012. The CA Board will also be meeting with the Chamber of Commerce

Community Organizer

Report Attached. (ATTACHMENT "E")

Mr. Eiland distributed the Food Lion Survey. **Mr. Avery** motioned for the Food Lion survey to be approved as submitted. **Ms. White** seconded.

Ms. Hendrix stated she wanted the survey to include safety in and out of Food Lion. She indicated that per discussion with previous Food Lion manager, people are possibly not visiting the store because of safety. **Mr. Donoughe** asked to take out the part about safety. **Mr. Engelke** pointed out that safety is different than security. **Ms. Hendrix** addressed whether people feel comfortable about entering the store. **Ms. McCready** wanted to know what is considered Food Lion property. **Mr. Donoughe** asked if safety in and out of Food Lion should be two separate questions. **Ms. Cederbaum** stated there

should be two questions, one addressing safety and the other addressing security. **Mr. Donoughe** asked why we needed data to address security, why not just go to Cedar Shopping Centers. **Ms. Hendrix** stated that the survey gives OM data to back up what we are saying. **Mr. Donoughe** asked if we are getting data for Food Lion or for Cedar. **Ms. Hendrix** stated she wants to work with Food Lion to increase customer base. **Mr. Engelke** asked if we should make a separate survey. **Mr. Eiland** stated we should send out this Food Lion survey and then follow up with another survey addressing other issues of security.

Ms. Hendrix stated she would like to change the question to say “safety” inside Food Lion and “security” outside Food Lion. Spelling and grammatical changes were also recommended.

Mr. Avery asked to change the original motion to state that the Food Lion survey be distributed with all data brought to the Board before sharing to outside persons. **Ms. White** seconded and the motion passed (7-0-0).

Mr. Eiland stated that he received the first Oakland Mills Celebrated Achievers Program application, Sandra Cusick from Talbott Springs. **Mr. Donoughe** mentioned that it would be nice to have a Board member go to the school and present proclamation. **Ms. McCready** stated that she knows Ms. Cusick and stated she is truly an “amazing woman.”

Mr. Avery motioned to have Ms. Cusick as Oakland Mills 1st Celebrated Achiever. **Ms. McCready** seconded and the motion passed (7-0-0).

Ms. Hendrix asked for one modification, the winner will be recognized at their school and at the Village Board meeting. She also asked that **Ms. Warren** put the Oakland Mills Celebrated Achiever in the “Flier” ad to recognize them.

Ms. Hendrix and the OM Board recognize Ms. Sandra Cusick as Oakland Mills 1st Celebrated Achiever.

Mr. Eiland asked the Board to look at a new Wal-Mart grant to pay for swim lessons, a Hispanic interpreter, swim instructors and swim passes. **Ms. Hendrix** was not sure we should apply for another Wal-Mart grant since OM had not used the \$600 already granted. She asked if we could hold off on applying for the grant until we have more specific information about where the funds need to go. **Mr. Eiland** stated the \$600 was not used because the Board had to approve what it was to be used for. **Ms. Hendrix** asked how the Spanish interpreter payment would work with CA. **Mr. Eiland** stated that the form he was submitting to use to gather information about the grant was a form that had been approved by the Board previously. **Ms. Mauro**, having previously been a grant reader, stated she would be willing to work with **Mr. Eiland** to look at specific needs of the OM Hispanic families. **Mr. Donoughe** asked to table the discussion until after **Mr. Eiland** and **Ms. Mauro** meet. **Ms. White** asked why **Mr. Eiland** was requesting \$1600. **Mr. Eiland** responded that he is not expecting to receive that amount, but thought it okay to ask for that amount. **Mr. Eiland** explained that it is not a typical grant, but rather Wal-Mart headquarters give money to the local store and the local store decides where to give donations. **Ms. Hendrix** asked the Board if they have any needs they want to see included in the grant. **Mr. Donoughe** stated he felt bad for requesting more money when OM had not used the money already donated. **Ms. Hendrix** stated she would like to see the actual application that is to be submitted, **Mr. Eiland** should ask CA what OM is allowed to do and to see it specifically geared towards an actual number of families. **Ms. McCready** agreed. **Ms. Cederbaum** stated we should document spending the first \$600. **Mr. Avery** stated that instead of saying “give”, could we say “scholarship.” **Ms. Cederbaum** would like to see the scholarship be for people who want to further their swimming instruction beyond the free class offered. **Mr. Hekimian** offered to work with **Mr. Eiland** to see how CA can help.

Committee Reports

Architecture: **Ms. Donoughe** stated the newly Revised Architecture Guidelines are online.

Property and Business: **Mr. Engelke** stated that 1/9/12, was the Task Force meeting for the next 10 years of Master Plan. Each village that has a Master Plan will have their plan included in the County plan. Any funding OM might need is why it

is important to be included in County Plan. A Connecting Columbia public meeting will be held January 11, 2012 from 7:30-9pm.

Communications: **Ms. Cederbaum** stated she had sent out her first email using Constant Contact. She stated each time using it gets easier. Board members commented that they liked the new format.

Board Bulletin Board

Mr. Engelke: Transportation Advocate Meeting, 1/12/12 from 7-9am.

Ms. Cederbaum: She stated she would be away from the office January 23-January 25th.

Ms. McCready motioned for the meeting to adjourn. **Mr. Engelke** seconded and the motion passed (7-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brigitta Warren, Program and Administrative Coordinator