



**HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**  
**Village Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 27, 2023, 7:30 pm via Zoom meeting**

**Meeting recording:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/HzkDQMegdkl1C3vILcd8xf2AVYkaT-iYsi-YxIirCT7ieB\\_dHj8XBPYASC5YFh2d.Bj85gkH8BGAY63NQ?startTime=1679959931000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/HzkDQMegdkl1C3vILcd8xf2AVYkaT-iYsi-YxIirCT7ieB_dHj8XBPYASC5YFh2d.Bj85gkH8BGAY63NQ?startTime=1679959931000)

**Members Present:** Skye Anderson, Kristine Amari, Jeremy Dommu, Bill Inglis and James Blackwood.

**Staff Present:** Laura Mayton

**Guests:** Approximately 18 guests attended.

**Call to Order:** 7:30 pm

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Inglis made a motion to add to New Business the topic Property Annexation. Ms. Amari made a motion to add the topic to New Business and Mr. Inglis seconded. The motion passed 3-2, Mr. Inglis, Mr. Blackwood and Ms. Amari in favor, Mr. Dommu and Ms. Anderson against. Mr. Inglis made a motion to add Volunteer Award to New Business. Ms. Amari made a motion to add the topic to New Business. Mr. Inglis seconded. The motion passed, Mr. Blackwood, Ms. Amari and Mr. Inglis in favor, Ms. Anderson and Mr. Dommu against. Mr. Inglis made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Amari seconded. The agenda was approved as amended, Mr. Inglis, Ms. Amari and Mr. Blackwood in favor, Mr. Dommu and Ms. Anderson against.
2. **Approval of the March 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Dommu made a motion to approve the March 13, 2023, meeting minutes. Mr. Inglis seconded. Ms. Anderson recommended that the minutes reflect that the Senior Advisory Committee Report was given during Village Voices. Mr. Inglis made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Anderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Board Update:** Ms. Anderson reported on [Columbia Association's Columbia Votes election awareness page](#). Mr. Dommu inquired if anyone has heard about a committee that will discuss election reform with representatives from each Village.
4. **Village Voices:** Ms. Link spoke as a resident of Hickory Ridge stating that the Board has shown a lack of transparency by discussing the Village Center redevelopment case in a closed meeting and making a decision that affects the Village in a closed meeting. She also stated that those objecting to the Patuxent Commons development should not disguise their objections as "environmental issues." Dr. Robertson stated that her property was referenced in the previous Board meeting as being affected by the Patuxent Commons development. Dr. Robertson believes the water management plans in place for Patuxent Commons are adequate and she has no concerns about negative impact of the development on her property.
5. **CA Board of Directors Report – Brian England:** Mr. England discussed various watershed issues and projects in and around Columbia, including and not including CA assessed property. Mr. England is keeping an eye on these projects and advocating for partnerships to resolve the watershed issues.
6. **New Business:**
  - a. Update on Watershed Projects in Hickory Ridge, John McCoy, Watershed Manager, Columbia Association: Mr. McCoy shared the plan for the Open Space area adjacent to Birdsong Pass. CA is installing a bio-retention facility, requested by adjacent residents and the Village Board, to

address drainage issues in the area. It will be designed as a wildlife feature with low growing blooming plants. Ms. Preston, an adjacent property owner, stated that she appreciates the work Ms. Wessner, Hickory Ridge WAC Chair, and Mr. McCoy have put into the project, and she is looking forward to getting the watershed issue resolved.

b. Donations Review

- i. Swansfield ES PTA: Ms. Shrieve, representing the PTA, requested a donation for a Family Cultural and International Night. Mr. Inglis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blackwood, to donate \$1,000 to Swansfield ES PTA. The motion passed unanimously.
  - ii. Wilde Lake HS PTSA: Ms. Zeinali, representing the PTSA, requested a donation for the After Prom Party and Staff Appreciation events. Mr. Dommum made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to donate \$1,000 to Wilde Lake HS PTSA. The motion passed unanimously.
  - iii. Wilde Lake MS PTSA: Ms. Mayton presented the request submitted by the PTSA. She stated that they request a donation for a Health and Wellness evening that focuses on family mental, physical and nutritional health. Mr. Inglis made a motion to donate \$1,000 to Wilde Lake MS PTSA, seconded by Mr. Dommum. The motion passed unanimously.
  - iv. Grassroots: Ms. Mayton presented the request submitted by Grassroots. She stated that they requested a donation of \$4,000 to purchase gift cards for crisis services for residents in crisis.
  - v. CEI – Nourishing Gardens: Ms. Mayton stated that CEI requested \$4,000 that would be used to construct a shed and interior shelving that would store greenhouse supplies.
  - vi. Columbia Community Care: Ms. Chavarria requested \$4000 to restock their food bank. Mr. Inglis made a motion to donate \$4000 each to Grassroots, CEI and Columbia Community Care. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blackwood. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Property Annexation: This discussion was tabled for the next meeting to allow Board members time to review the information.
- d. Volunteer Award: Mr. Inglis asked Ms. Mayton to institute a Volunteer of the Year award for Hickory Ridge. Ms. Mayton said that she would begin asking for nominations for the award and, depending upon how many nominations she receives, she will present options for the award at the April 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

7. **Old Business:**

- a. Review of Approval of February 21, 2023, Approved Closed Meeting Minutes: Ms. Mayton stated that Mr. Blackwood proposed adding some contextual information to the approved meeting minutes, stating, “The Board requested that G. Macy Nelson prepare an estimate of the costs to do this work as well as a ballpark range for the cost for the case moving forward. Ms. Mayton will ask Mr. Nelson for a reasonable per-month price cap of perhaps \$2000.” The Board members discussed spending on the Village Center redevelopment case. Mr. Dommum made a motion for a price cap of \$2,000/month for attorney’s fees. Mr. Blackwood seconded and proposed an amendment to the motion to cap spending on attorney fees for the Village Center redevelopment case at \$10,000 from this date forward. Mr. Dommum seconded the amendment. The vote on the amendment to cap attorney fees at \$10,000 failed, Mr. Dommum in favor and Mr. Inglis, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Amari and Mr. Blackwood against. The vote on the motion passed, Mr. Inglis, Ms. Anderson and Mr. Dommum in favor, Mr. Blackwood and Ms. Amari against. Mr. Blackwood made a motion to put a \$15,000 cap on the Village Center redevelopment case with a \$2,000/month payout. Mr. Dommum seconded. The motion passed, Mr. Blackwood, Mr. Inglis and Mr. Dommum in favor and Ms. Amari and Ms. Anderson against.

Ms. Amari made a motion to add the language Mr. Blackwood proposed to the February 21, 2023, closed meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Inglis. The motion passed, Mr. Inglis, Ms. Amari and Mr. Blackwood in favor, Mr. Domm and Ms. Anderson against.

8. **Manager's Report:** Ms. Mayton stated that the Sixpence Tot Lot play structure installation has begun and it should be completed within five weeks. After that project is complete, CA will begin the work to replace the bridge on the pathway between Bright Passage and Watch Chain that was damaged in December.
9. **Feedback Session:** There were no comments.
10. **Board Comments:** Ms. Anderson stated that, at times, the discussion during the meeting became disorganized. She reminded Board members that discussion should focus on a motion or amendment. Mr. Domm thanked Ms. Mayton and the rest of the staff for the fantastic Volunteer Appreciation Dinner the previous week. Mr. Domm stated that it was nice to gather and connect with other Village volunteers.
11. **Action Items:** Ms. Mayton will reach out to Mr. Nelson for a estimate of legal cost incurred to date.
12. **Closed session – Personnel:** This item was tabled for the next meeting.
13. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 10:12pm.