



HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Village Board Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2023, 7:30 pm via Zoom meeting

Meeting Recording: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/QVdob87pHz093CxRMhklnbhDnAPP_LBC0-DLJ0WV6xgS_clij-AJvoi4AgdZWB4x.gswewetlUiwHEhfq

Members Present: Kristine Amari, Jared Ball, Jeremy Dommu, Steve Hannan, Bill Inglis, Mariah Robertson, Chris Smith and Skye Anderson.

Staff Present: Laura Mayton and Emily Rieger

Guests: Approximately 27 guests attended.

Call to Order: 7:30 pm

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Dommu made a motion to approve the agenda and Dr. Robertson seconded. Dr. Ball requested to add Tot Lot at Bridlerein Terrace to 6.H. Dr. Robertson made a motion to approve the amendment and Dr. Ball seconded. The agenda, as amended, was approved unanimously.
2. **Approval of the May 8, 2023, Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Inglis made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Robertson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Board Update:** Mr. Inglis shared that Kimco is appealing the Howard County Zoning Board's decision to deny the petition for redevelopment. Dr. Robertson praised the staff for hosting a successful and engaging storytime event for families in the community. Mr. Dommu shared information about PlanHoward Academy, an award-winning planning course designed by the Department of Planning and Zoning that educates residents on how the planning and land development process works. The free, five-week course includes in-class instruction, hands-on learning exercises and take-home materials. He briefly shared his own experiences as a student and encouraged interested residents to apply and participate in the next Academy that is scheduled for September/October 2023.
4. **Village Voices:** No comments were made.
5. **CA Board of Directors Report—Skye Anderson:** Ms. Anderson will be holding office hours that will be posted on the [CA Council Representative page of the website](#). Ms. Anderson is on the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee, the Inner Arbor Trust Board and the Audit Committee.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. **Columbia Association Update, Dannika Rynes, Sr. Manager of Media Relations & Communications:** Ms. Rynes discussed <https://columbiaassociation.org/engage/> which is a hub with ways to engage members. She also encouraged everyone to sign up for a [Columbia Card](#), which includes four guest passes to the pools. Ms. Rynes also stated that [Columbia Archives](#) has a lot of documents online and they are also open by appointment.
 - b. **Election Committee Report (Jim Loesch, Chair, Samantha Link, Vice Chair):** Mr. Loesch provided a summary of the Election Committee's report and recommended that the Board review the candidate documents, Election Procedures & Guidelines and the Election Committee Charter to correct any errors or inconsistencies in the documents. Ms. Link, the Vice Chair of the Election

Committee, stated that she is proud of the work done by the Committee, and she is disappointed by those who attacked Committee members who were following the procedures and guidelines they were given. The Board discussed reviewing the election documents and dedicating a meeting to revising them.

- c. **Appointments to the Resident Architectural Committee to Include: Bob Opatovsky, Celinda Grier, Linda Loesch, Barbara Condron, Craig Benjamin, Ed Gillis and Matthew Heyne:** Mr. Inglis nominated Bob Opatovsky, Celinda Grier, Linda Loesch, Barbara Condron, Craig Benjamin, Ed Gillis and Matthew Heyne to the Resident Architectural Committee. Mr. Hannan seconded. The nomination passed unanimously.
- d. **Appointments to the Architectural Committee to Include Celinda Grier, Linda Loesch and Three Board Members:** Dr. Ball, Mr. Inglis and Dr. Robertson volunteered to participate on the Architectural Committee. Mr. Dommu nominated Ms. Grier, Ms. Loesch, Dr. Ball, Mr. Inglis and Dr. Robertson. Dr. Ball seconded. The nomination passed unanimously. Ms. Anderson nominated Dr. Robertson to serve as Chair of the Architectural Committee. The nomination passed unanimously.
- e. **Review Proposed Change to Number of Members in Watershed Advisory Committee Charter:** Ms. Mayton spoke on behalf of Ms. Wessner, the Chair of the Watershed Advisory Committee, requesting that the number of resident members be changed from 5 to 12. Dr. Robertson made the motion to change the number from 5 residents to 12. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- f. **Appointments to the Hickory Ridge Watershed Advisory Committee to Include Deborah Wessner, Jerry Lioi, Vanessa Mims, Mary-Claire Roghmann, Donna Warner, Frank Horstman, Leah Donovan and Crystal Konny:** Mr. Inglis made a motion to appoint those listed to the Hickory Ridge Watershed Advisory Committee. Dr. Robertson seconded. The motion passes unanimously.
- g. **Property Annexation:** Mr. Inglis discussed the annexation language in Article II of the Hickory Ridge Community Association Covenants and its relevance to the Village Center redevelopment issue. A Harper's Choice resident commented that the Maryland Homeowner's Association Act, Section 11B-113.5. Annexation of land in Howard County, has language that could override the Hickory Ridge Covenants. Ms. Mayton agreed to reach out to the Hickory Ridge attorneys to get an opinion on which document to follow.
- h. **Tot Lot at Bridlerein Terrace:** Dr. Ball inquired about a tot lot that was removed several years ago from an area behind Bridlerein Terrace. A Hickory Hollow resident, the community in which the tot lot was located, pointed out that the tot lot in question was a Hickory Hollow tot lot on Hickory Hollow HOA property. Ms. Mayton stated that because the tot lot was not on CA Open Space but on HOA property, the Village has little say over the tot lot removal. Hickory Hollow HOA has the right to manage its resources as the residents of the HOA choose.

7. Old Business:

- a. **Board Meeting Procedures:** Mr. Dommu discussed ideas and suggestions for Board meeting conduct and efficiency. The Board discussed ideas and suggestions. Dr. Robertson made a motion

to make Resident Speak Out for items not on the agenda, while comments on agenda items can be made while the agenda item is discussed. Mr. Domm seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Domm moved that all resident comments be limited to two minutes and that residents may speak for two minutes when agenda items are introduced. Mr. Inglis seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Domm made a motion to remove Resident and Board Feedback from the agenda. Mr. Hannan seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Robertson made a motion to hold one in-person meeting per month and one virtual meeting per month. Mr. Inglis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Manager's Report:** Ms. Mayton stated that the Senior Advisory Committee at CA is now the Aging Well in Columbia Advisory Committee (AWCAC) with Celindah Grier as the Hickory Ridge representative.
9. **Board Comments:** Ms. Anderson mentioned that the County Council would be voting on the County budget and if anyone has input, they should contact the [Council Representative for Hickory Ridge, Deb Jung](#).
10. **Feedback Session:** Mr. Hurewitz from Harper's Choice stated that he is confused about the annexation issue. Ms. Link stated that she hopes that the Village Center redevelopment does not continue to be at the center of Village issues. She stated that the community should move on from this issue.
11. **Action Items:**
 - a. Ms. Mayton will email the election documents to the Board.
 - b. Ms. Mayton will review the Board meeting minutes from 2017 and 2018 to see if there is a mention of the Bridlerein Tot Lot.
 - c. Ms. Mayton will ask Mr. Nelson and Ms. Throop about the annexation language in the Hickory Ridge Covenants and the MD HOA Act.
12. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 10:19pm.