

## **Columbia Association Council Rep Report April 20, 2023**

The board is now counting down its last few meetings before a new board is formed after the election. I'm still focused on a number of issues.

One of the big concerns with CA Open Space is how to approach the removal of invasive plants and what tools to use. CA employee Eric Walker's recent talk on this was very informative and the input from the community expressed many different concerns.

The trail edges on the 100 miles of pathways are dramatically affected by invasive plants but it's a good starting off place to push back by removing invasive plants, restoring the land and then planting with native plants. I gained experience of this at our business when I hired an excellent company from Pennsylvania to restore and renew a good portion of the front of the property using native plants. This company is meeting with CA to see if they will be a good fit. Initial estimates and proposals I requested show they could be a very economic and skilled resource.

Other topics discussed was the updating of the WSSI Lake Elkhorn project flow chart, defining the CA position related to Columbia redevelopment, HO Co by design, updating Columbia Design Guidelines for business and industrial parks and the negative effect of stormwater coming from Howard County streets on to CA open space.

Over the last couple of weeks there has been activity at Sixpence Circle tot lot, the street is full of CA trucks. I'm so glad that at last the tot lot is being constructed, this time last year some had given up any hope that it would ever be built. Many thanks go to my fellow board members that voted to approve this project.

I will continue to advocate for the CA to play a leading role when it comes to redevelopment so that development is in line with Columbia guidelines. This way we can avoid what happen with our village center. Our Hickory Ridge Village Center Community Plan clearly states that "Residential Uses, to the extent appropriate to support and enhance but not overwhelm, other uses in the village". Let's hope the developer comes back with a plan that reflects our guidelines so we can all give it our wholehearted support.

Feel free to call me with any questions or concerns 410 952 6856

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