



## HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### Village Board Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2023, 7:30 pm

**Meeting recording:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/UN9R4e3jiwn5U6D5-2owazk3Zv\\_t4QaSs9kkZ6HyrWQsvtr8VpXsGppumjSSCmRU.XhCGOT2KerBIL3Ui?startTime=1696894209000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/UN9R4e3jiwn5U6D5-2owazk3Zv_t4QaSs9kkZ6HyrWQsvtr8VpXsGppumjSSCmRU.XhCGOT2KerBIL3Ui?startTime=1696894209000)

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

**Staff Present:** Emily Rieger

**Guests:** Approximately 6 guests attended.

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

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Inglis requested to add Rent Stabilization to New Business. Ms. Amari made a motion to amend the agenda by adding Rent Stabilization as 6.B. because the planned speaker for 6.B., Ms. Grier, was not able to attend. Mr. Inglis seconded. The agenda was approved as amended, unanimously.
2. **Approval of September 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Dommu made a motion to approve the September 11, 2023, meeting minutes. Mr. Smith seconded. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Board Update:** Dr. Robertson encouraged residents to attend the Community Ecology Institute's (CEI) Harvest Gala. Dr. Robertson took a moment to honor Indigenous People and briefly shared her experience about the Longest Table event; a wonderful opportunity to share food and community with others. Mr. Dommu mentioned that the Planning Board approved the site development plan for Patuxent Commons. Ms. Amari invited residents to join members of the Hickory Ridge Village Board at Mad City Coffee Tuesday, October 10th at 5pm to ask questions, raise any issues or just to chat.
4. **Resident Speak-Out:** No comments were made.
5. **CA Board of Directors Report—Skye Anderson:** Ms. Anderson held 4 office hour sessions during the month of September and is looking forward to meeting new residents in October. Her October office hours are scheduled for Tuesday, October 17th from 12:00-1:00pm at the Starbucks in the Wilde Lake Village Center with Tom Connors, CA Ice Rink Manager and Friday, October 27th from 5:00-6:00pm at the Starbucks in the Wilde Lake Village Center with Hickory Ridge Village Board Member Chris Smith. Ms. Anderson encouraged residents to read her Columbia Association monthly report available on the Hickory Ridge Village website.
6. **New Business:**
  - a. **Howard County Budget Priorities, Joanna Chen, Community Engagement Liaison, Office of the County Executive:** Ms. Chen introduced herself and thanked the Board for submitting the budget priority letter. She noted that the Office of the County Executive takes the letters very seriously as well as the ranking of the priorities. Upon hearing that, the Board agreed that they would review the letter and list of priorities at the next Board meeting to determine if further action needs to happen. Mr. Inglis shared concern regarding rent stabilization and asked for Ms. Chen's contact information for further discussions regarding the topic. Dr. Robertson shared concern regarding the increased traffic on Quarterstaff Road and requested that traffic calming measures be considered. Mr. Dommu asked for a timeline and status report on pedestrian and cycling priorities. Ms. Chen would review and be in touch with more information.

- b. **Rent Stabilization:** Ms. Laituri, spokesperson from the Howard County Rent Stabilization Coalition and two Howard County residents, Ms. Diana and Ms. Beth shared their stories and highlighted the need for rent stabilization. They urged for the Hickory Ridge Village Board's support of the Coalition's mission. The Howard County Rent Stabilization Coalition aims to present a bill at the county level when they are back in session on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Inglis offered to draft a letter to the County Council members.
- c. **Discuss CA Resident Speak-Out Policy (Skye Anderson):** Ms. Anderson shared that several members of the CA Board requested to change the resident speak-out policy but after much discussion and a vote, it was decided that no change would be made.

## 7. Old Business:

- a. **Election Document Review:** The Board thanked Mr. Smith for his work on the topic. They then reviewed Mr. Smith's draft of the list of priorities for the Election Committee members and spent time deliberating the topic of on-line voting. Mr. Smith volunteered to redraft a list of Election Committee priorities that will be discussed during the next Board meeting.
- b. **Community Engagement:** Ms. Rieger shared that a request for community engagement committee residents has been shared in both the printed and electronic Log newsletters. Mr. Dommu asked Ms. Rieger if she could send an electronic request for community engagement committee members to all email subscribers. Ms. Rieger agreed and told the Board that she would design and send following day.

8. **Manager's Report:** Ms. Rieger spoke on Ms. Mayton's behalf and reminded the Board that a printed issue of The Log was delivered to residents' mailboxes in early October. Ms. Rieger shared the success of the Hickory Ridge Flea Market as well as the 32 Winter Artisan Market applications that were received, 13 from Hickory Ridge residents. She invited the Board to attend the Winter Artisan Market that is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> from 2-5pm at The Hawthorn Center.

## 9. Action Items:

- a. Ms. Mayton will share Ms. Chen's contact information with the Board.
- b. Ms. Rieger will add Mr. Hannan to the Hickory Ridge Village Board coffee chat advertisements.
- c. Ms. Mayton will add resident speak out policies (Mariah Robertson) to the agenda for the next Board meeting.
- d. Ms. Mayton will add Election Document Review (Candidate certification mechanism, Specific Board membership responsible for deciding candidate certification appeals and Jared's election proposal/guidelines) to the agenda for the next Board meeting.
- e. Ms. Rieger will contact the block party recipients inviting them to be on the community engagement committee.

10. **Adjournment:** Dr. Ball made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Inglis seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.