



HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Village Board Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2023, 7:30 pm

Meeting recording: <https://clipchamp.com/watch/E75L4qghb6x>

Members Present: Kristine Amari, Jared Ball, Jeremy Dommu, Steve Hannan, Mariah Robertson and Chris Smith and Skye Anderson. Ms. Anderson joined the meeting late due to a prior CA commitment. Mr. Inglis notified Ms. Amari of his absence.

Staff Present: Laura Mayton and Emily Rieger

Guests: Approximately 10 guests attended.

Call to Order: 7:30 pm

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Dr. Robertson made a motion to move the CA Board of Directors Report to follow New Business and Dr. Ball seconded. The agenda was unanimously approved as amended.
2. **Approval of the August 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Hannan made a motion to approve the August 14, 2023, meeting minutes. Dr. Robertson seconded. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Board Update:** Ms. Amari invited residents to join members of the Hickory Ridge Village Board at Mad City Coffee Tuesday, Tuesday, October 10th at 5pm to ask questions, raise any issues or just to chat. Dr. Robertson commended the staff on a wonderful Back to School Community Celebration. Dr. Robertson encouraged residents to support the Community Ecology Institute (CEI) by attending their Harvest Gala. Mr. Hannan shared that he had a wonderful interaction with a Hickory Ridge resident on the pathway.
4. **Resident Speak-Out:** Mr. Schwartz urged the Board members to listen to residents. Ms. Schwartz discussed past Board actions and asked the Board to evaluate their actions. Ms. Miller, a CEI Board member, thanked the Board for their continued support and reiterated Dr. Robertson's comments by inviting the Board to consider sponsorship at their upcoming Harvest Gala on October 18th. Ms. Hammon commented that she appreciated Ms. Amari's remarks related to conduct at a previous meeting. Mr. Evelyn thanked the Board for their continued work and acknowledged the challenges the Board members face.
5. **New Business:**
 - a. **Howard County Budget Priorities:** The Board reviewed a list of priorities for the Howard County budget process. The list included priorities from previous years and new priorities suggested by residents and Board members. The Board had questions about one point that was based on a County work group. Ms. Mayton will follow up on the progress of the work group and the priorities will be updated if needed.
 - b. **CA Budget Priorities:** The Board reviewed the list of budget priorities for Columbia Association suggested by Board and WAC members, residents and Ms. Mayton. The Board agreed that the priorities should be sent to Columbia Association for consideration during their budget process.
 - c. **FY24 Q1 Financials:** Ms. Mayton reviewed the FY24 Q1 Financials and stated that the Village is in a good financial position. Income is up, and this allows for more special events and activities for members. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the FY24 Q1 Financials. Dr. Ball seconded. The FY24 Q1 financials were approved unanimously.

6. **CA Board of Directors Report—Skye Anderson:** Ms. Anderson shared that she organized a meeting between Freetown Farm and Patuxent Commons. Ms. Anderson also shared that The Columbia Association is beginning the search process for a CEO.
7. **Old Business:**
 - a. **CA Assessment Share:** Mr. Smith stated that he is in favor of adding Hickory Ridge to the letter written to CA composed by Michael Golibersuch, Chair of the Owen Brown Village Board. The Board agreed and Ms. Mayton confirmed that she would let Mr. Golibersuch know that Hickory Ridge will join Owen Brown in advocating for an adjustment to the way the CA assessment share is calculated.
 - b. **Community Engagement:** Several residents commented on engaging more residents, specifically those residing in apartments. Dr. Robertson stressed the importance of creating channels to engage residents and suggested the creation of a community engagement committee designed to connect residents across the Village's neighborhoods by creating links that will increase communication in the Village. The Board agreed and supported the idea. Dr. Robertson volunteered to draft a request for residents that would then be reviewed and shared in the Log newsletter.
 - c. **Election Document Review:** Mr. Smith volunteered to draft a list of priorities for the Election Committee members.
 - d. **Review Board Meeting Policies/Procedures:** The Board reviewed and evaluated the changes that they had made with regards to the time limits of resident speak out and during each agenda item discussion and agreed that the changes have been working well.
8. **Manager's Report:** Ms. Mayton encouraged the Board to attend and publicize the upcoming Flea Market and Winter Artisan Market being held on September 30th and November 19th, respectively. She also reminded the Board that the printed Log will be delivered to residents' mailboxes around October 5th.
9. **Action Items:**
 - a. Ms. Mayton will contact Mr. Golibersuch regarding the CA Assessment letter.
 - b. Ms. Mayton will coordinate with Dr. Ball and Dr. Robinson for an event featuring Mr. Dedrick Asante-Muhammad about Columbia at 55.
 - c. Mr. Smith will draft a list of priorities for the Election Committee document review.
 - d. Dr. Robertson will draft a request for committee members for the proposed Community Engagement Committee.
10. **Adjournment:** Mr. Domm made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Ball seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:07pm.