



HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Village Board Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2024, 7:30 pm

Meeting recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3CBjxMTWea5eV9EctVTQhkB.J4nTpWaQIWDKJDpp?startTime=1705969236000>

Members Present: Kristine Amari, Jared Ball, Steve Hannan, Mariah Robertson (arrived at 7:35pm), Chris Smith and Skye Anderson. Jeremy Domm notified members of his absence. Bill Inglis was also absent.

Staff Present: Laura Mayton

Guests: About 16 guests.

Call to Order: 7:30 pm

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Hannan made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Smith seconded. Ms. Mayton stated that Dannika Rynes with CA would not be able to make the meeting, so item 6. a. should be removed from the agenda. The Board approved the amended agenda unanimously.
2. **Approval of January 8, 2024, Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Hannan made a motion to approve the January 8, 2024, meeting minutes. Mr. Smith seconded. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Board Update:** Ms. Amari asked if any Board members had attended one of the CA Strategic Plan workshops the previous week. Mr. Smith stated that he attended and lots of constructive ideas were discussed.
4. **Resident Speak-Out:** No residents spoke.
5. **CA Board of Directors Report—Skye Anderson:** Ms. Anderson reminded attendees that the CA Board will meet on Thursday, January 25th, both in-person and virtually. Ms. Anderson also stated that Robert's Rules of Order require members to be present to vote.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. **Quarterly Donation Review:** Mr. Asante, representing Wilde Lake Middle School PTSA, said that the PTSA was requesting a donation of \$1000 for various PTSA events and programs. Ms. Mayton stated that Wilde Lake Middle School Boosters requested a donation for the theater program, instruments and travel scholarships. Mr. Smith made a motion to donate \$1000 to Wilde Lake Middle School PTSA and \$1000 to Wilde Lake Middle School Boosters. Dr. Robertson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Shreve, representing Swansfield Elementary School, stated that the school was organizing a Fun Run and a Family Culture Night, for which she requested \$1200. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the donation request and Dr. Robertson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The donation request from Oakland Mills High School was tabled until the FY25 fourth quarter donation review.
 - b. **Bright Passage Bridge Replacement Project:** Avinash Dewani, Project Manager, Howard County Government, Storm Water Management Division, presented the new plan for the bridge replacement project on the path from Bright Passage into the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Mr. Dewani described the changes, including limiting tree removal and planting 44 native trees as part of the project. The bridge will be replaced with a culvert.
 - c. **Agging Well in Columbia Advisory Committee:** Celindah Grier, Hickory Ridge resident on the committee, said that the committee met on Thursday, January 18th for the first time since July. There is a new charter that needs to be reviewed and approved. The committee now reports to CA staff rather than the

CA Board of Directors. Ms. Grier hopes that the committee can move forward and be productive after a long hiatus.

7. Old Business:

- a. **Election Procedure Review:** Don Warner, Election Committee Chair, discussed the Election Committee's recommendations on the final few issues the Board asked them to review. One item was the ballot counting process. Mr. Smith made a motion to add the new language about ballot counting to the fourth bullet point in section 7.A. of the Election Procedures and Guidelines. Dr. Roberson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. After some discussion, Dr. Robertson made a motion to allow voting via absentee ballot at the Community Celebration the night before the election and to allow residents to pick up absentee ballots at the office and vote. Mr. Hannan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Manager's Report:** Ms. Mayton reminded Board members and attendees that the candidate packets to run for the Village Board or the CA Board of Directors will be available on February 1, 2024, and encouraged everyone to consider running.

9. Action Items:

- a. Ms. Mayton will complete the approved edits in the Election Procedures and Guidelines and send the fully revised document to the Board members by Friday, January 26th for review.

10. **Adjournment:** Dr. Robertson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:19pm.