



HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Village Board Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2024, 7:30 pm

Meeting recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/gO_Pml-loB6E_sgAcPzdZOZIQycOd0D9Eo3jmUspHes_nkW6Op3EPEs-HrejKZHf.0HYvLObgSn4BYk6n?startTime=1704760129000

Members Present: Kristine Amari, Jared Ball, Steve Hannan, Bill Inglis (arrived at 7:40pm and left at 10:00pm), Mariah Robertson, Chris Smith and Skye Anderson. Jeremy Dommou notified members of his absence.

Staff Present: Laura Mayton

Guests: Seven guests attended including Debbie & John Clutts, Lizz Hammon, Joanna Chen from the Howard County Executive's Office, Andy White, and Don Warner.

Call to Order: 7:30 pm

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Hannan made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Ball seconded. Dr. Ball made a motion to amend the agenda and add Palestinian Cease-Fire Letter to the agenda. Dr. Robertson seconded. The Board unanimously approved the amendment. Ms. Amari made a motion to add Board Meeting Procedures for Winter to the agenda. Ms. Anderson seconded. The Board unanimously approved the amendment. The Board approved the amended agenda unanimously.
2. **Approval of December 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the December 11, 2023, meeting minutes. Mr. Hannan seconded. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Board Update:** Dr. Ball stated that he attended several community events where community activists have discussed the Israel/Gaza issue with him.
4. **Resident Speak-Out:** Ms. Clutts with the Howard County Autism Housing Task Force offered to do a presentation to the Board on the Patuxent Commons project, at the corner of Cedar Lane and Freetown Road, due to the election of new Board members since the last public meeting about the project. The Board members agreed to the presentation, and it will be scheduled for an upcoming meeting.
5. **CA Board of Directors Report—Skye Anderson:** Ms. Anderson commended that the three Festive Fridays events in December at the Lakefront were successful. She also stated that the CA Board is working on the FY25 budget. On Friday, January 12th at 5pm Ms. Anderson will be at Mad City Coffee with fellow Board Member, Jeremy Dommou.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. **Building Use Request from Anti-Racist Education Alliance:** Lizz Hammon, representative for the organization, requested free use of The Hawthorn Center on Sunday, February 11 for an event working with teachers from Howard County Public Schools. Dr. Robertson made a motion to approve Ms. Hammon's request. Mr. Inglis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. **Election Committee Report/Review No-Campaign-Spending Proposal:** Don Warner, Chair of the Election Committee, reported that the Committee reviewed and revised the election documents to reflect a no-campaign-spending election. The Board discussed the documents with Mr. Warner. Dr. Robertson made a motion to approve the revised documents for a no-campaign-spending election. Mr. Inglis seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Robertson made a motion that the Board move forward with the proposed no-campaign-spending election proposal for the Spring 2024 election. Dr. Ball seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. **Palestinian Cease-Fire Letter:** Dr. Ball stated that the Board should make a statement on the Israel/Gaza issue by advocating for a cease-fire in the conflict and send the statement to local and state elected officials that represent the Hickory Ridge Village. The Board discussed. Dr. Ball made a motion to send a statement to elected officials calling for a cease-fire in the Gaza/Israel conflict. Mr. Inglis seconded. The motion failed, Mr. Inglis and Dr. Ball in favor, Mr. Hannan and Ms. Amari opposed and Dr. Roberson and Mr. Smith abstained. Contact information for elected officials who represent Hickory Ridge may be found here: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/elected-officials>.
- d. **Meeting Procedures for Winter:** Ms. Anderson stated that she requested a move to virtual meetings beginning with the current meeting. Dr. Robertson recommended meeting virtually for the first meeting in February. The second January meeting and the second February meeting are scheduled to be virtual. Dr. Roberson made a motion to have a virtual Board meeting on Monday, February 12th. Mr. Hannan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Old Business:

- a. **Board Procedures Review (Resident Speak-out):** Mr. Smith and Dr. Robertson presented some ideas for managing the time during a meeting devoted to Resident Speak-out. All Board members agreed that this would be needed occasionally. Dr. Robertson made a motion to approve the proposal for Resident Speak-out. Dr. Ball seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The new rules are: up to ten residents may speak for two minutes on topics not on the agenda. Residents may have up to two minutes to speak on an agenda item and those who have not previously spoken will be given priority. Any Board member may suggest waiving the limit on speakers provided there is a consensus among Board members to waive the limit.
- b. **Approval of the FY24 Q2 Financials:** Ms. Mayton thanked the Board for reviewing the FY24 Q2 financials at the previous meeting and asked the Board to officially approve them. Dr. Roberson made a motion to approve the FY24 Q2 financials. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Manager's Report:** Ms. Mayton stated that The Hawthorn Center will be closed to rentals May 20th to June 2nd for a major repair to the banquet room floor. The building will be closed for a portion of that time due to mess and noise associated with the project.

9. Action Items:

- a. Ms. Mayton will work with Ms. Clutts to schedule a date to present to the Board.

10. **Adjournment:** Dr. Robertson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Ball seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:09pm.