



HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Village Board Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Meeting recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/yq96Fv0ZX7ie3dAyXuDNosqW1bkNKep2TP-hZTjj14UeIWlrLtByGa4h4TG l3Br.uidE ZMxAmCsWEFY?startTime=1712618970000>

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

Staff Present: Laura Mayton and Emily Rieger

Guests: Approximately 20 guests

Call to Order: 7:30 pm

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Inglis made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Hannan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Approval of the March 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Inglis made a motion to approve the March 11, 2024, meeting minutes. Mr. Dommu seconded. The minutes passed unanimously.
3. **Board Update:** Mr. Dommu highlighted the County Executive Office's proposed capital budget, which includes \$14.5 million for cycling and pedestrian projects. Ms. Anderson congratulated Emily Rieger, whose photo was selected as one of the Village's winners in the Columbia Association photo contest.
4. **Resident Speak-Out:** Several residents spoke in opposition to a proposed CA tree planting project on Open Space in a grassy area behind homes on Satinwood Drive.
5. **CA Board of Directors Report—Skye Anderson:** Ms. Anderson provided an update on new "play area" designs to replace tot lots, aiming to serve more age groups. Resident feedback will be part of developing policies.
6. New Business:
 - a. **Donation Requests: Grassroots, Atholton HS PTSA, Harpers Choice MS PTA, Clemens Crossing ES PTA, Bryant Woods ES PTA, Columbia Festival of the Arts, Wilde Lake HS PTSA, Community Ecology Institute (Freetown Farm):** The Board reviewed donation requests of the Hickory Ridge Village schools several organizations. Mr. Dommu made a motion to donate \$1,000 to each of the five schools. Mr. Inglis seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Ball made the motion to increase the donation to Grassroots from \$3,000 to \$5000 and to increase CEI's donation to \$2,000. Mr. Inglis seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The Board discussed the donation request from the Columbia Festival of the Arts but decided that they would postpone a vote and revisit their donation request at the next Board meeting.
 - b. **Other Donations:** Mr. Inglis asked the Board to reinstate a scholarship program to help local students in need. After much discussion, Ms. Amari recommended reaching out to

the staff at Wilde Lake to inquire about their partnership with Howard County Community College.

- c. **Volunteer of the Year:** Mr. Inglis made a motion to honor Alan Schwartz with a \$100 dining gift certificate and a plaque in appreciation of his efforts in the Village. Ms. Amari seconded. The Board voted one in favor, three against and two members abstained. The motion failed. Mr. Smith recommended a transparent process be created for recognizing Village volunteers, including a Volunteer of the Year award. Ms. Mayton offered to post the Volunteer of the Year nomination form through the Village's social media platforms with a deadline of submission being May 13th.

7. Old Business:

- a. **Satinwood Tree Project:** After listening to residents express their opposition to the tree planting project during Resident Speak-Out, the Board discussed the proposed project. Mr. Inglis made a motion to send a letter of concern to Open Space requesting that they delay they project. Mr. Hannan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. **CA Management Contract Addendum:** Board members discussed a proposed, joint letter to Columbia Association with River Hill and Owen Brown advocating for an adjustment to the assessment share. The Board would like to do this before signing the second addendum to the management contract which extends the Village's management contract with Columbia Association through April 2025. Mr. Hannan will continue to work with representatives from Owen Brown and River Hill to edit the proposed joint letter.
- c. **Proposed Easement Policy:** The Board discussed the proposed easement policy and reviewed the draft letter written by Mr. Smith. Ms. Anderson shared that the easement policy is on the CA agenda and advised the Board to wait to send the letter. Mr. Inglis made a motion to send the letter. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 3-2-0.

8. **Manager Report-Laura Mayton:** Ms. Mayton encouraged the Board and Village residents to attend the Hickory Ridge Community Celebration event on April 19th. She shared that the Community Engagement Committee hosted a successful happy hour on March 18th at Asian Palace with several residents in attendance.

9. Action Items:

- a. Ms. Mayton will send a letter to Columbia Association staff regarding the proposed tree planting project to request delaying the project until further resident input is gathered.
- b. Ms. Mayton will publicize the Volunteer of the Year award through social media to solicit nominations from the community.

10. **Adjournment:** Mr. Inglis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.