

Hickory Hillside Hive!

April 2024 Report, Annual Wrap-Up

Office Hours

Fridays from 5-6 at [Mad City](#)*

Office Hours for 17 May are cancelled (due to a CA commitment).

CA Meetings

[Board meetings and work sessions](#) – Work Session on 11 April, Board Meeting on 25 April

Committee meetings – Audit Committee, IAT Board (Climate Change and Sustainability) Committee

Closed meetings – 2

I also report on CA business at each village board meeting. Sometimes I repeat in this report what I say then.

This has been my first year on the CA Board and I have learned a lot but it has been very time-consuming partly due to my wanting to know as much as possible about CA. E.g., I set up meetings to learn more about the ice-rink, the Sports Park, KidSpace, etc., plus I held Office Hours on a weekly basis. And I attended Festive Fridays and AAPI and yoga at the Chrysalis, Wine in the Woods, and so much more. I look forward to hearing what you have to say and learning even more about CA!

During the final meeting of the fiscal year, the CA Board revised the Purchasing Policy and the Easement Policy, we were given an update on stream restoration, we passed a resolution about Gun Violence Awareness Day on the first Friday of June, we added 3M\$ to the emergency cash reserves, we passed a Play Area Policy and changed our meeting format to include fewer meetings (down from 20 which included 9 non-voting meetings called work sessions, to 15 meetings when votes may be taken at all of them)

Major Board Actions of FY2024 included the following:

One of the biggest accomplishments: the Board hired a new President/CEO. Shawn MacInnes starts on June 17, 2024.

A revised Ethics Policy was approved, and an independent Ethics Committee was established to handle complaints against CA Board and Senior Staff members.

Responsibility for CA Advisory Committees was transferred to CA staff.

Changes to Board operations were approved (moving to the New Business/Old Business format in place of work session/meetings format).

Several obsolete CA Board policies were sunset; this was the first step to revising over 150 policies to ensure that CA Board policies are up-to-date and do not conflict.

A CA Directors Handbook (a first for CA) was approved; this gives incoming CA Directors information about processes for the Board.

A new CA Director Orientation process was created; this will allow incoming Directors to be better informed and adjust more quickly to serving on the CA Board.

Enhancements to CA's Easement process were approved, providing for additional information, notification, and communication with the community.

An easement was granted to the State for construction of the new access road into the Merriweather area; this will help relieve traffic on Broken Land Parkway headed to Little Patuxent Parkway.

A new five-year Strategic Plan was developed; further work may continue into FY-2025.

*Mad City is a wonderful neighborhood coffee café at Cedar Lane and Hickory Ridge Road

And remember, **We are all Hickory Ridge!**