



HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Village Board Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2025, at 7:30pm

Meeting recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/8RRSrUMc8iWxjsLrziGiyB_G47aj8ef-u790bx5ciM7rWT6aWCfdptkzcVvYuW7r.AjDDAcDD6cpl4g4k?startTime=1765239368000

Members Present: Kristine Amari, Mark Covington, Steve Hannan, Mike McGarity, Mariah Robertson and Skye Anderson.

Staff Present: Laura Mayton & Emily Rieger

Guests: 15 attendees

Call to Order: 7:30pm

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Covington made a motion to approve the agenda and Mr. Hannan seconded and the agenda was approved unanimously.
2. **Approval of November 10, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes:** Dr. McGarity made a motion to approve the November 10, 2025, Board Meeting minutes. Mr. Covington seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Board Update:** No comments were made.
4. **Resident Speak-Out:** No resident comments were made. Ms. Tavia Patusky, CA's Wellness & Fitness Director, provided a brief update on Columbia Association activities. She noted that donation drives and food collections are ongoing, and that CA is preparing for school's-out programs and holiday-season activities for children. Dr. McGarity expressed his appreciation for the roller rink staff's willingness to accommodate music requests from attendees and shared positive experiences he has had there with his children.
5. **CA Board of Directors Report—Skye Anderson:** Ms. Anderson invited Board members and residents to attend a CA Town Hall meeting on January 22nd.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. **Appoint Election Committee Members: Don Warner, Kathleen Hill and Nemo Lionikis:** Ms. Mayton asked the Board to include Ms. Celindah Grier in the appointments. Dr. Robertson made a motion to appoint Election Committee members: Don Warner, Kathleen Hill, Nemo Lionikis and Celindah Grier. Ms. Amari seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
 - b. **Proposed Projects for Cash Reserves Returned to CA:** Ms. Wessner, Chair of the CARES Committee, presented proposed projects. She proposed projects which included a pollinator garden, permeable pavers on Watch Chain Way, additional trees and shrubs for residents, and soil testing for landscaping. The Board was pleased with the proposed project ideas, prompting Ms. Mayton to offer to write a letter to CA recommending the projects.
 - c. **Proposed USPS Mailbox Grants:** Dr. McGarity introduced the concept of a grant program to replace problematic cluster mailboxes. The Board discussed the logistics and approval

process related to replacing mailboxes owned by the U.S. Postal Service. Ms. Mayton suggested that, rather than establishing a grant program, she would provide residents with resources and information regarding mailbox issues and the replacement process through HRCA's social media platforms and newsletter.

- d. Proposed Special Events Fee Structure:** Dr. McGarity proposed a three- or four-tiered fee structure for special events to help CA-assessed residents of the Village of Hickory Ridge feel they receive benefits for their assessments. After extensive discussion, the Board decided to maintain the current fee structure.

7. Old Business:

- a. Board Meeting Schedule:** The Board is continuing its trial period of holding one Board meeting per month. Ms. Mayton noted that the Board is scheduled to meet on Monday, January 12th at 7:30pm virtually.

- 8. Manager Report—Laura Mayton:** Ms. Mayton stated that Howard County has notified the Village of pond maintenance beginning on December 8th at High Beam Court. The crew will be using small equipment to remove vegetation from the dry pond. The pathway will have limited access at times while the work is being completed. The work should be done by the end of the week.

9. Action Items:

- a.** Ms. Mayton will send a letter to CA regarding environmental projects for cash reserves.
- b.** Ms. Mayton will share information and resources regarding cluster mailbox issues on the HRCA's social media platforms and newsletter.

10. Closed Session per Maryland HOA Act Section 11B-111 (4) (i) Discussion of matters pertaining to employees and personnel: Mr. Hannan made a motion to close the meeting and Mr. Covington seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Board went into closed session at 8:39pm. Those present were Kristine Amari, Mark Covington, Steve Hannan, Mike McGarity and Mariah Robertson and staff member Laura Mayton. At 8:53pm, Ms. Amari made a motion to open the meeting. Mr. Covington seconded. The motion passed unanimously.