



HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Village Board Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2025, at 7:30pm

Meeting recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/3MPgMOYN391v6tEzM4Pb3rJJVY4R7q0e2bKUT91b1yNFRrjvITvxy9nCZnd9DDIi.FYXDUDqv6wjA2AMM?startTime=1752535785000>

Members Present: Kristine Amari, Mark Covington, Mike McGarity, Mariah Robertson and Skye Anderson. Mr. Hannan had an excused absence.

Staff Present: Laura Mayton & Emily Rieger

Guests: 16 attendees, virtually

Call to Order: 7:30pm

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Ms. Amari made a motion to approve the agenda and Mr. McGarity seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.
2. **Approval of June 23, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Covington made a motion to approve the June 23, 2025, Board Meeting minutes. Mr. McGarity seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Board Update:** Mr. McGarity reported that obstructive bushes at the Hickory Ridge Village Center have been removed, improving safety and aesthetics. Mr. Covington thanked Ms. Mayton and Ms. Rieger for organizing the well-attended pool party, noting the high attendance and positive community interaction.
4. **Resident Speak-Out:** Ms. Zeng discussed an issue with furniture left by a previous tenant. Ms. Mayton suggested that she contact Ms. Wilkinson for assistance. Ms. Sledge expressed concerns about a large bush on her HOA's property.
5. **CA Board of Directors Report—Skye Anderson:** Ms. Anderson reported on the progress of Patuxent Commons, explained the benefits of the Columbia Card and encouraged the Board and residents to attend the Jeffers Hill pool Coral Reef encounter happening the weekend of July 19th.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. **Review of FY25 Year-end Financials:** Ms. Mayton discussed the FY25 financials and stated that Hickory Ridge does not have to return money to CA because of wise spending over the year. Dr. Roberston made a motion to approve the FY25 year-end financials. Mr. Covington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. **CA Board Goals (Skye Anderson):** Ms. Anderson reviewed the Columbia Association Board Goals.
 - c. **CA Ethics Governance (Skye Anderson):** Ms. Anderson presented 10 ethics and governance proposals for the CA Board, including publishing an annual ethics report and implementing tiered sanctions. Ms. Anderson explained the role of the ethics panel and the importance of transparency. The Board discussed the potential impact of the proposals.

7. Old Business:

- a. **Candidate Requirements for 2026 Election:** Ms. Lancos expressed concerns about the current election requirements. Mr. Warner supports maintaining the current election process, noting it was developed in response to past issues. Ms. Mayton offered to review the Election Committee's recommendations and present several options for the Board to consider at a future meeting.
- b. **Proposed update to Hickory Ridge Bylaws:** Ms. Mayton discussed a past issue where a Hickory Ridge Board member remained on the Board after moving out of the Village. Ms. Mayton proposed an amendment of the Bylaws to require Board members to be residents of the Village. Mr. McGarity made a motion to allow Ms. Mayton to consult with the attorney about a Bylaw change. Dr. Robertson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Teen Night at The Hawthorn Center Proposal (Mike McGarity):** Mr. McGarity proposed organizing a Teen Night at The Hawthorn Center. Ms. Amari made a motion for Ms. Mayton to contact Ms. Buckmon with Columbia Association's Teen Center, and request a meeting to discuss a possible teen event at The Hawthorn Center. Dr. Robertson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. **Infertility Grant Proposal (Mike McGarity):** Mr. McGarity made a motion proposing a \$500 grant for a resident undergoing fertility treatments. Ms. Amari seconded. The Board discussed. With one vote in favor and three against, the motion was defeated.

8. Manager Report—Laura Mayton: Ms. Mayton reported on a successful appreciation lunch for the Open Space crew and the need for school supply donations for Prepare for Success. Ms. Mayton reminded the Board that the office phone system is not functioning and explained that the issue is due to a burned-out combo card, with a quote of \$1,116 for repairs.

9. Action Items

- a) Ms. Mayton will review the Election Committee's recommendations and present options for the 2026 election process to the Board at a future meeting.
- b) Ms. Mayton will contact Ms. Buckmon and request a meeting to discuss a possible teen event at The Hawthorn Center.
- c) Ms. Mayton will consult Ms. Throop, the Village's attorney, about amending the Bylaws to prohibit board members from serving if they move out of the Village.

10. Adjournment: Mr. McGarity made a motion to adjourn, and Dr. Robertson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:38pm.