



**HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**  
**Village Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 28, 2025, at 7:30pm**

**Meeting recording:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/KNINVhtGvZcl6TD\\_7pmEPGUOTobljsLFbtCi7GtCWb\\_AqOD5iU964g20QbxEGe\\_c.rLjY\\_AzpOFz9ZRDQ?startTime=1753743781000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/KNINVhtGvZcl6TD_7pmEPGUOTobljsLFbtCi7GtCWb_AqOD5iU964g20QbxEGe_c.rLjY_AzpOFz9ZRDQ?startTime=1753743781000)

**Members Present:** Kristine Amari, Mark Covington, Steve Hannan, Mike McGarity and Mariah Robertson. Ms. Anderson joined virtually.

**Staff Present:** Laura Mayton & Emily Rieger

**Guests:** 10 attendees, 2 in person.

**Call to Order:** 7:30pm

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Ms. Amari made a motion to approve the agenda and Dr. Robertson seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.
2. **Approval of July 14, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Amari made a motion to approve the July 14, 2025, Board Meeting minutes. Dr. Robertson seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Board Update:** Ms. Mayton announced a giveaway of 100 trees, made possible through a partnership between the Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) and the Columbia Association. At the time of the Board meeting, 95 Hickory Ridge residents had already registered to participate.
4. **Resident Speak-Out:** No comments were made.
5. **CA Board of Directors Report—Skye Anderson:** No report was made.
6. **New Business:**
  - a. **Columbia Association Update, Dannika Rynes, Sr. Manager of Media Relations & Communications:** Ms. Rynes provided a detailed update on various events and initiatives, including family fun mornings, a teen DJ night, and the first-ever Pride event. She briefly shared about upcoming events including the Back to School Bash and a Day of Dance, with more details available on the [Lakefront Live website](#).
  - b. **Community Engagement Volunteers Update:** Mr. Armstrong provided an update on community engagement volunteer efforts since January 2024. They have developed materials to engage leaseholders and homeowners and have hosted happy hours to convey village events and information. The group also hosts a weekly Monday walking event to connect with residents.
  - c. **August 11, 2025, Board Meeting-Cancel:** Ms. Mayton proposed canceling the August 11th Board meeting. After discussion, the Board unanimously agreed. The next board meeting is scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup>, virtually, with a focus on budget requests from Howard County and Columbia Association.
  - d. **Community Building Discussion (Mariah Robertson):** Dr. Robertson introduced a community building exercise to help Board members get to know one another better. Participants chose an art postcard that they thought best represented their idea of

community and shared their reflections. The group discussed and agreed on community guidelines, including active listening, speaking from their own perspective, and assuming good intentions. A matrix exercise was conducted to visualize interconnections among board members, highlighting personal and professional connections.

- e. **Building Maintenance:** Ms. Mayton provided updates on building maintenance, including repairs to the phone system and the need to remove wallpaper and repaint the banquet room. Dr. Robertson made a motion for Ms. Mayton to spend between \$3,500 and \$4,000 to revitalize the banquet room. Mr. Covington seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **7. Old Business:**

- a. **Update: Teen Event at The Hawthorn Center:** Ms. Mayton met with Ms. Buckmon with Columbia Association's Teen Center to discuss a possible teen event at The Hawthorn Center. Ms. Buckmon suggested that Ms. Mayton schedule a meeting with parents and teens to gather feedback on what types of teen engagement events the Hickory Ridge community would like to see in the future.

**8. Manager Report—Laura Mayton:** Ms. Mayton encouraged the Board and residents to apply for the remaining Block Party grants and reminded everyone that the next Board meeting will be virtual on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **9. Action Items**

- a) Ms. Mayton will work to get the banquet room repainted at a projected cost of \$3,500 to \$4,000.
- b) Ms. Mayton will schedule a meeting in October with parents and teens to solicit feedback on desired youth and teen programming.

**10. Adjournment:** Ms. Amari made a motion to adjourn, and Dr. Robertson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9pm.

# Community Building

Dr. Mariah Robertson

1. Start with an ice breaker - 15 minutes
2. Group guidelines exercise - how do we want to be together as a board? - 7-10 mins
  - **Example guidelines from other groups:**
    - Come to meetings with 100% of self
    - Respect people and ideas
    - Presume welcome and extend welcome
    - Speak from your own experience
3. Matrix exercise - 7-10 mins
4. Write a small prompt/note to yourself on your postcard and put your name on it - 1-2 minutes



**FREE PIZZA  
& SNACKS**

# TEEN KICK BACKS

LOOKING FOR A FUN WAY TO  
SPEND YOUR FREE TIME?  
JOIN US FOR OUR **FREE**  
DROP-IN PROGRAM FOR TEENS!

**North Laurel Community Center**

Fridays, 5-8:30pm (June 20-August 22)

**Roger Carter Community Center**

Saturdays, 1-4pm (June 21-August 23)

**Gary J. Arthur Community Center**

Fridays, 5-8:30pm (July 11-August 8, August 22)

**Harriet Tubman Cultural Center**

Fridays & Saturdays, 6-9pm (July 11-August 23)

**Thomas Viaduct Middle School**

Fridays, 5-8pm (June 20-August 22)

**Wilde Lake Middle School** *New Location*

Fridays, 5-8pm (June 20-August 22)

*Fitness waiver required to participate.*

**ACTIVITIES  
INCLUDE:**

SPORTS!  
VIDEO GAMES!  
OTHER STUFF!

  
**Howard County**  
Recreation & Parks



**Information:** Anthony Lyon, 410-313-0456 or [alyon@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:alyon@howardcountymd.gov).

**Registration:** 410-313-7275 (voice/relay), [www.HowardCountyMD.gov/rap](http://www.HowardCountyMD.gov/rap).

Scan for Info





## Youth and Teens 2025 Summer Program

### July and August Trip Itinerary

**All participants should arrive at the YTC 45 minutes prior to departure.**

Date Trip	Program Type/Cost	Program Description	Departure and Return Times	Additional Costs/Info	Special Instructions
Mon, July 7th	Cunningham Falls (Thurmont, MD) <b>\$50</b>	Cookout/Outdoor Activities/Swimming/Day Trip 2+ Mile Hike, Plenty of Walking, Waterfall	10am-5:30pm	\$\$ Snack Bar and Canoeing (optional) <b>YTC will provide cookout food, snacks, and drinks</b>	Sunscreen, Comfortable clothes and shoes for walking, swimsuit, water shoes, change of clothes, towels
Fri, July 11th	Adventure Park USA (MD) <b>\$53</b>	Amusement Park Rides, Arcade, Bumper Cars. Plenty of walking	9:45am-4:15pm	\$\$ Snack bar and arcade (optional) <b>Lunch Included: 2 slices of pizza/drink</b>	Sunscreen, Comfortable Clothing and Shoes
Mon, July 14th	Go Kart and Movie Crofton, MD <b>\$50</b>	Go Kart (unlimited laps for 45 mins) Movie-TBD	To Be Announced	\$\$ for lunch or Pack lunch (small cooler) Strip Mall available	Sunscreen, Comfortable Clothing/Shoes *flip flops, crocs not recommended
Fri, July 18th	Washington, DC Smithsonian Museums <b>\$25</b>	Tourist Attraction, Eateries, Plenty of walking	9am-6:30pm	\$\$ Snacks, souvenirs <b>Lunch Included</b>	Sunscreen, Comfortable clothes and shoes for walking *flip flops, crocs not recommended
Mon, July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Six Flags America Bowie, MD <b>\$40</b>	Amusement Park Rides, Games, Water Park. Plenty of walking	10am-6:30pm	\$\$ for Food, gift shops, games and more or pack food for all day <b>Six Flags America only accepts card payments at all locations including restaurants, retail stores, games, ticket windows, and parking toll booths. You can convert cash to a prepaid debit card for no upfront fee immediately inside the park entrance or</b>	Sunscreen, Comfortable clothes, shoes towel, swimsuit, change of clothes, and water shoes/comfortable sneakers. <b>Small Coolers recommended</b>

				at any of the other Cash to Card kiosks within the park. You may also convert your cash to a prepaid debit card at one of the multiple kiosks located throughout the park and anywhere in the US where Visa is accepted.	
Fri, July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Ocean City Ocean City MD <b>\$95</b>	Beach, Tourist Attraction, Shopping, Eateries Plenty of Walking	8am-9pm	\$\$ for lunch and dinner or pack a lunch and dinner, snacks in small cooler souvenirs, arcade games, rides	Sunscreen, Comfortable clothes, shoes, swimsuit, water shoes, change of clothes, towel, beach chair and water <b>Small Coolers recommended</b>
Mon, July 28 <sup>th</sup>	Turkey Hill Experience Columbia, PA <b>\$40</b>	Museum style interactive hands-on immersion in ice cream making	10:15am-5pm	\$\$ late lunch on the way back	Sunscreen, Comfortable clothes and shoes
Fri, Aug 1 <sup>st</sup>	New York City New York, NY <b>\$130</b>	Central Park, MET, Times Square	6am-10pm	\$\$ for food, souvenirs	Sunscreen, Comfortable Clothing/Shoes/Sneakers Suggested *flip flops, crocs not recommended
Mon, Aug 4 <sup>th</sup>	Main Event Columbia, MD <b>\$25</b>	Arena style arcade room, laser tag, bowling, gift shop	1:30pm-5:45pm	\$\$ additional games, snacks, food <b>Lunch Included</b>	Sunscreen, Comfortable Clothing/Shoes/Sneakers <b>Socks for bowling</b>
Fri, Aug 8 <sup>th</sup>	Howard County Fair West Friendship, MD <b>\$20</b>	Carnival Rides, Games, Animal Petting stations Plenty of walking	1pm-6:45pm	\$\$ for games, food, rides, novelty gifts.	Sunscreen, Comfortable Clothing/Shoes/Sneakers
Fri, Aug 11 <sup>th</sup>	Gunpowder Falls Middle River, MD <b>\$20</b>	Cookout/Outdoor Activities/Swimming/Day Trip Hiking, Plenty of Walking,	10am-5:30pm	\$\$ Snack Bar and Canoeing (optional) <b>YTC will provide cookout food, snacks, and drinks</b>	Sunscreen, Comfortable Clothing/Shoes/Sneakers Suggested, bathing suit, water shoes, change of clothes, towel, beach chair
Fri, Aug 15 <sup>th</sup>	Hershey Park Hershey, PA <b>\$125</b>	Amusement Park Rides, Games, Water Park. Plenty of walking	8am-8:45pm	\$\$ for Food, gift shops, games and more or pack food for all day Check out HersheyPark.com for special meal deals for the entire day.	Sunscreen, Comfortable clothes, shoes towel, swimsuit, change of clothes, and water shoes/comfortable sneakers. <b>Small Coolers recommended</b>

				<b>Park is cashless /cash-to-card kiosks on site</b>	
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**A Note for Parents:**

**Please be sure to read the special instructions for each trip planned. By doing so, you will ensure that each trip is a great experience for your child(ren).** Children, who take prescription medications, should bring medication with them or take it before leaving on the trip. The Youth & Teen Center is **NOT** responsible for administering medication or for any personal items lost or stolen items during trips. High Schoolers on the trip will be allowed to go in their own groups without staff. There will be a check in point and time established at the beginning of the trip. Except for the NY trip. Middle Schoolers will always be teamed up with a staff member. With respect to time, if your child arrives late to The BARN she/he may miss the trip for that day without refund, as our trips are pre-planned and time sensitive.

**For additional questions about the July & August trip agenda please speak with a YTC staff member or call (410) 992-3726.**

**Small coolers are welcomed to pack lunch/dinner for most trips**

YTC participants who get picked up, will call parents/guardians 45 mins prior to arrival back to The Barn for trips that are not local.



## Manager's Report

July 28, 2025

### 1. Dates to Note:

- **August 6**, 7:30pm, RAC meeting, virtual
- **August 18 – 22**, Village office closed for building maintenance (rentals occur as scheduled)
- **August 25**, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, Back to School Parking Lot Party
- **September 6**, 7:00pm, Wine Tasting with Boyd Cru Wines

### 2. Phone System Repaired:

The replacement of the voice card in the phone system has restored the phone service in the Village office. We are back to normal operations, thank goodness!

### 3. Block Party Grants:

Plan a block party and invite everyone on your street!

- A total of 15 grants are available for FY26. Each grant is for a \$100 Giant Gift Card.
- One block party grant per street is allowed each year (except for very long streets, at the Manager's discretion).
- Everyone on the street must be invited to the party, and a copy of the invitation must accompany the application form.
- We must have [a completed form](#) and invitation before issuing a gift card.
- The party sponsor must drop off the completed form (with attached invitation) at The Hawthorn Center, Monday through Thursday, 9:30am – 5:00pm or Friday, 9:30am – 3:30pm. The party sponsor must sign to indicate receipt of the gift card.

### 4. Village Office Closed for Building Maintenance:

The office will be closed August 18 – 22 to allow for building maintenance, like painting. The office will reopen on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.

### 5. Prepare for Success:

It's school supply donation time! There is a Prepare for Success collection bin in The Hawthorn Center where you may drop off donations. Or go to the Prepare for Success website to donate using their Amazon list or donate to the organization. To learn more: <https://www.prepareforsuccess.org/>

### 6. Community Walk:

Walk the Hawthorn neighborhood paths with members of the community on Monday mornings. Meet at The Hawthorn Center at 10:00am, take a walk, and enjoy a coffee at The Hawthorn Center on us! Happening almost every Monday. Follow Hickory Ridge on Facebook or Instagram using the QR code below for weekly updates!

### 7. Columbia Card for Columbia Association Assessed Residents:

If you live on Columbia Association (CA) assessed property but aren't a CA member, you can request a free Columbia Card to access their facilities at a reduced, pay-as-you-go rate. As a Columbia Cardholder, you'll get discounts at CA's pools, tennis courts, and golf courses, as well as on group fitness classes and kids' programs. SUMMER BONUS: Columbia Cardholders receive 4 single-use guest passes per family on their Columbia Cardholder accounts. These guest passes are automatically added. The passes can be used at any of CA's 23 outdoor pools throughout the summer, Monday – Thursday only (excluding holidays). They cannot be used at other Columbia Association facilities or programs. (<https://columbiaassociation.org/sports-recreation/membership/columbia-card/>)



**8. Open Space Issues:** Report issues on CA Open Space via a form on their web site. Photos may be included. It is also helpful to note the location, if possible. Tot lots and bridges are marked with identification numbers. Visit CA's web site here: <https://columbiaassociation.org/open-space/contact-us/> To view current CA Open Space projects, visit <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/400d4f61a51e4db6acebe2daf5971244>

**9. Follow Hickory Ridge:** Find all the ways to connect with [Hickory Ridge here:](#)



**10. Committee Reports:**

- **Resident Architectural Committee:** The RAC continues to review applications as usual.
- **Watershed Advisory Committee:** The WAC is sponsoring a tree giveaway with CA at the Hickory Ridge Flea Market on Saturday, September 13, 2025, 8:30 – 10:30am. More information coming soon!
- **Aging Well in Columbia (AWC) at CA:** No updates for this meeting.