



**HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**  
**Village Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 27, 2026, at 7:30pm**

**Meeting recording:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/PZ2ncpryyYxALhJRdsp7ETCm0z8BNfxBht6H0cCUzTNnjYpsWz60ySYjnfWLZflq.lAzaCsoLKmlpHiXA?startTime=1777332244000>

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

**Staff Present:** Laura Mayton

**Guests:** seven attendees, both in-person and virtual

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

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Ms. Amari made a motion to approve the agenda and Dr. Robertson seconded. Ms. Amari asked to add “Scout Liaison, Cub Scout Troop 720” to the agenda. Dr. Robertson seconded. The amended agenda was approved unanimously.
2. **Approval of April 13, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Amari made a motion to approve the April 13, 2026, meeting minutes. Mr. Covington seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Board Update:** Dr. McGarity stated that Kimco is having a celebration for the reopening of the fountain in The Avenue at the Hickory Ridge Village Center on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Robertson stated that the Columbia Housing Center is holding a fundraiser to support housing for HCC students and other Howard County residents.
4. **Resident Speak-Out:** Ms. Carter asked if there was any chance Columbia Association or another organization is considering starting a print newspaper for Columbia/Howard County news. Ms. Anderson stated that Columbia Association is not considering this. Dr. McGarity recommended The Baltimore Banner as an option to get Columbia/Howard County news.
5. **CA Board of Directors Report—Skye Anderson:** Ms. Anderson shared that the permanent Lakefront stage at Lake Kittamaqundi is complete. She also stated that CA is planning events for Columbia’s 60<sup>th</sup> birthday next year. Ms. Anderson also discussed the removal of the Columbia Council members from Long Reach, Oakland Mills and River Hill at closed session on Thursday, April 23, 2026.
6. **New Business:**
  - a. **FY27 Village Board Appointments Due to Uncontested Election:** Ms. Amari made a motion to appoint Mark Covington and Mariah Robertson to the FY27 Village Board. Dr. McGarity seconded. The motion passed, Ms. Amari, Mr. Hannan and Dr. McGarity in favor. Mr. Covington and Dr. Robertson abstained.
  - b. **Discuss Process to Fill Three FY27 Board Seats:** Ms. Anderson shared interview processes used previously by Hickory Ridge and other Villages. Ms. Mayton stated that she has been actively attempting to recruit Board members using the newsletter, social media, and at Hickory Ridge events. Letters of interest should be submitted no later than Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

- c. **Scout Liaison, Cub Scout Troop 720:** Outgoing Board member Ms. Amari stated that she has acted as liaison to Cub Scout troop 720 at Clemens Crossing Elementary School for the past few years. She stated that it is not a labor-intensive role and hopes an FY27 Board member who is already active in the Scouts would be willing to take on the role for the future.

**7. Old Business:**

- a. **FY27 Draft Budget:** Dr. Robertson made a motion to approve the proposed FY27 budget. Mr. Hannan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. **Patuxent Commons Outreach:** Ms. Mayton stated that she reached out to a staff member at Patuxent Commons with the hope of connecting the community with Hickory Ridge. She will update the Board with developments.

- 8. Manager Report—Laura Mayton:** Ms. Mayton thanked all the residents who voted and all the volunteers who helped with the election process, from the committee members to those who contributed a few hours of their time. She reiterated that the Board will need three additional members for FY27. Ms. Mayton also stated that the CARES Committee is working with Dr. Stacy Small-Lorenz, Residential Landscape Ecology Specialist at the University of Maryland Extension Service to give a talk about native plants on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at The Hawthorn Center.

**9. Action Items:**

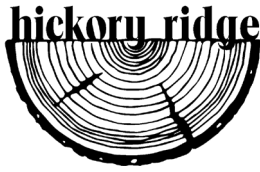
- a. Ms. Mayton will send Board member interview questions to Dr. Robertson and Mr. Covington.
- b. Ms. Mayton will add Cub Scout Troop 720 Liaison to an upcoming meeting agenda.

- 10. Adjournment:** Dr. Robertson made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Amari seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

Village: Hickory Ridge  
 Fiscal Year: FY2027  
 Date Prepared: 26-Feb-26

**DRAFT OPERATING BUDGET**

|   | Budget<br>FY2027 | Budget<br>FY2026 | Estimate<br>FY2026 | Budget Variance<br>FY2026 to FY2027 |                | Current Year Est vs. Next<br>Year Budget |              |
|---|------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--|--------------|
|   |                  |                  |                    | \$                                  | %              | \$                                       | %            |
| <b>REVENUES</b>                                   |                  |                  |                    |                                     |                |  |              |
| 1 CA Annual Charge Share Grant                    | 346,343          | 335,625          | 335,625            | 10,718                              | 3%             | 10,718                                   | 3%           |
| 2 Lease & Rental                                  | 152,000          | 147,000          | 147,785            | 5,000                               | 3%             | 4,215                                    | 3%           |
| 3 Tuition & Enrollment                            | 0                | 0                | 0                  | 0                                   | #DIV/0!        | 0  | #DIV/0!      |
| 4 Interest  | 1,400            | 180              | 1,140              | 1,220                               | 678%           | 260                                      | 23%          |
| 5 Special Events                                  | 7,895            | 6,635            | 2,800              | 1,260                               | 19%            | 5,095                                    | 182%         |
| 6 Fees  | 80               | 110              | 50                 | (30)                                | -27%           | 30                                       | 60%          |
| 7 Miscellaneous                                   | 2,700            | 3,200            | 2,765              | (500)                               | -16%           | (65)                                     | -2%          |
| 8 Gain/loss on Disposal of Asset                  | 0                | 0                | 0                  | 0                                   | #DIV/0!        | 0  | #DIV/0!      |
| <b>Total Income</b>                               | <b>510,418</b>   | <b>492,750</b>   | <b>490,165</b>     | <b>17,668</b>                       | <b>4%</b>      | <b>20,253</b>                            | <b>4%</b>    |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                   |                  |                  |                    |                                     |                |  |              |
| 9 Staff Salaries                                  | 287,083          | 280,625          | 278,230            | 6,458                               | 2%             | 8,853                                    | 3%           |
| 10 Janitorial Wages                               | 0                | 0                | 0                  | 0                                   | #DIV/0!        | 0  | #DIV/0!      |
| 11 Contract Labor                                 | 6,500            | 7,000            | 6,000              | (500)                               | -7%            | 500                                      | 8%           |
| 12 Payroll Benefits                               | 23,500           | 21,500           | 22,935             | 2,000                               | 9%             | 565                                      | 2%           |
| 13 Payroll Taxes                                  | 22,500           | 21,000           | 22,171             | 1,500                               | 7%             | 329                                      | 1%           |
| 14 Janitorial Expense                             | 31,600           | 30,900           | 29,937             | 700                                 | 2%             | 1,663                                    | 6%           |
| 15 Fees   | 19,750           | 25,300           | 25,260             | (5,550)                             | -22%           | (5,510)                                  | -22%         |
| 16 Operating Expenses                             | 12,800           | 9,750            | 11,660             | 3,050                               | 31%            | 1,140                                    | 10%          |
| 17 Business Expenses                              | 2,600            | 3,300            | 1,450              | (700)                               | -21%           | 1,150                                    | 79%          |
| 18 Insurance                                      | 13,500           | 11,000           | 13,179             | 2,500                               | 23%            | 321                                      | 2%           |
| 19 Advertising                                    | 800              | 1,000            | 700                | (200)                               | -20%           | 100                                      | 14%          |
| 20 Newsletter                                     | 16,500           | 20,000           | 21,417             | (3,500)                             | -18%           | (4,917)                                  | -23%         |
| 21 Other Printing                                 | 4,500            | 4,500            | 4,500              | 0                                   | 0%             | 0  | 0%           |
| 22 Donations/Contributions                        | 9,000            | 9,000            | 9,000              | 0                                   | 0%             | 0  | 0%           |
| 23 Special Events                                 | 18,290           | 20,000           | 15,000             | (1,710)                             | -9%            | 3,290                                    | 22%          |
| 24 Taxes  | 1,700            | 1,600            | 1,691              | 100                                 | 6%             | 9  | 1%           |
| 25 Utilities                                      | 19,800           | 14,500           | 17,545             | 5,300                               | 37%            | 2,255                                    | 13%          |
| 26 Repairs & Maintenance                          | 14,600           | 6,640            | 6,500              | 7,960                               | 120%           | 8,100                                    | 125%         |
| 27 Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment              | 3,500            | 3,000            | 3,200              | 500                                 | 17%            | 300                                      | 9%           |
| 28 <b>Total Expenses Before Depreciation</b>      | <b>508,523</b>   | <b>490,615</b>   | <b>490,375</b>     | <b>17,908</b>                       | <b>4%</b>      | <b>18,148</b>                            | <b>4%</b>    |
| 29 Depreciation                                   | 1,895            | 2,135            |                    | (240)                               | -11%           | 1,895                                    | #DIV/0!      |
| 30 <b>Total Expenses</b>                          | <b>510,418</b>   | <b>492,750</b>   | <b>490,375</b>     | <b>17,668</b>                       | <b>4%</b>      | <b>20,043</b>                            | <b>4%</b>    |
| <b>Increase/(Decrease) in Unrestricted Net As</b> | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>         | <b>(210)</b>       | <b>0</b>                            | <b>#DIV/0!</b> | <b>210</b>                               | <b>-100%</b> |



## Manager's Report April 27, 2026

### 1. Dates to Note:

- **May 6**, 7:30pm, RAC meeting, virtual
- **May 6**, 7:00pm, Getting Started with Native Plants, CARES presentation
- **May 7**, e-issue of The Log newsletter
- **May 11**, 7:30pm, Board meeting, in-person

1. **Thank YOU:** Thank you to all the Village residents who voted in the Village Election/Annual Meeting and to all the volunteers who make this process smooth and inclusive! Hickory Ridge is only able to function well with resident participation, from Board members to the RAC and the Election Committee, CARES and the folks who volunteer a few hours here and there when they are able. Thank you so much to the community members who contribute!

2. **Village Board Members:** There are two Board members for the next fiscal year that starts May 1. The Village Board is looking for interested residents to volunteer! The Board meets on the second Mondays of each month and, only if necessary, on the fourth Monday of the month. Submit a letter of interest by April 30th to Laura at [manager@hickoryridgevillage.org](mailto:manager@hickoryridgevillage.org) and take the first step towards making a meaningful impact as a Village Board member for a year!

3. **Getting Started with Native Plants:** The Hickory Ridge CARES Committee is working with Dr. Stacy Small-Lorenz, Residential Landscape Ecology Specialist at the University of Maryland Extension Service to present a talk about native plants. Learn about climate-resilient landscaping options that incorporate beautiful Maryland native plants to absorb stormwater, reduce fertilizer and water use, and attract birds and butterflies to your yard. RSVP to [cares@hickoryridgevillage.org](mailto:cares@hickoryridgevillage.org).

4. **Monday Community Walks:** 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!

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



### 6. Committee Reports:

- **Resident Architectural Committee:** The RAC continues to review applications as usual.
- **CARES Committee:** CARES meets regularly on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. For meeting information, see the calendar on our website.
- **Ageing Well in Columbia (AWC) at CA:** No updates for this meeting.