

Notes from Mount Washington Improvement Association Board Meeting
June 12, 2018
Johns Hopkins Mt. Wahsingotn Campus
Notes taken by Danielle Shapiro and Louise Cornell

Board members present:

Board members absent: Jacq Ziegler Jones,

Others present:

Proceedings:

Meeting commenced at approximately 7:37pm

Lindsey White, President started meeting 7:37pm

First order of business:

Woodrow's kitchen on Sulgrave Avenue applying for a beer and liquor license, I am asking for approval from the MWIA. It would help support me. Asked the group in Mt. Washington, BD7 license transfer to A7. We will sign this and they will offer their support also.

Discussion:

Questions: You don't plan to sell packaged goods?

Answer: Nickel's taphouse does a growler. I will talk back and forth with them. That is a possibility. If it is a hard no with the Merchant's associated, I won't do it.

Question: Can you explain the criteria of license?

Answer: So the agreement is that we wouldn't go to an A7.

Question: What are you asking for from the board?

Answer: A letter to give to the liquor board, for the hearing the first week of July.

Question: Do your neighbors have a liquor license?

Answer: Ethels, Mt. Washington Tavern and others do.

Lindsey: I suggest that the board coordinate with the merchant's association to coordinate with them to make a decision. Any other comments?

Annual 4th of July parade: Lindsey: I have some parade divas here. There is a change in the parade route with the construction.

Missy Mack and Joan Wisner-Carlson: We are the cofounders of the 4th of July parade. Our 19th year, it is wonderful to bring the community together. We will promote the parade. We are getting rolling a little late this year due to Springwell construction. We will have the parade on Carterdale road at Joan's house. They are offering up their front lawn. We are grateful for the Carterdale residents. We need muscle energy and enthausiasm from our neighbors. We are looking for volunteers for set up and clean up.

Please spread the word. Tell your neighbor. In the newsletter will have more details. Questions? Another way to contact you? Elizabeth Grove is our point person, elg.grove@gmail.com

Vote on the parade budget request: Parade this year is asking for 3,168.00. All in favor. None opposed.

Lindsey notes: candidate J.D. Merrill is here who is a candidate. We typically don't have candidates speak, but say hello to J.D. Merrill. Two other elected officials are on their way.

Another update on Pimlico: for those of you who were at the March or April community meeting and that is being shared as part of the public commentary as part of the Mt. Washington community. The survey was also distributed to surroundings neighbors. We had 240 responses. Cylburn had less. Community members want similar things at Pimlico. We will hear more about that later in the meeting.

David Nemerson: Treasurer's report.

Finances are strong. 473 members, 40 - \$100 sustaining members and more. Slightly down this year. \$800 less than last year. Income: took in almost \$21,000 from membership dues. \$3500 from advertising. Expenses: xxx Printing is the biggest expense, over 50% of our newsletter. Next largest support for Mt. Washington School (21%) or our income. Other expenses - \$2,000 last year for the parade. Expenses related to value card (\$1500), insurance (\$1,000).

Question: What is the schedule on the park?

David: The city is standing by their line that contract will be February 2019. It is a \$9.5 million dollar project. Some other expenses have arisen – retaining wall, drainage. The latest we hear regarding the bridge – it will be set on pilings this Fall.

Paul Levine (On Board of Mt. Washington Preservation Trust) request to the board for letter of opposition to the destruction of the garden and retaining wall in the Village, across from Nickel's Taphouse. We were informed about 10 days ago by the consultant overseeing project who works for the city that the garden and retaining walls that the Trust sponsored along with Mt. Washington Merchant's association would be demolished. You have seen the space turn into a garden and dedicated benches. This was a project started in 2012 when Ira Coleman asked for something in that horrible overgrown mess. We went through a year of negotiation with the city to get permits and plans with many offices. We got approval for the plan donating landscape architects plan – as well as my company which spent \$10,000.

David: What is the city's position?

Paul: We were told the trail would plow through this area, taking down the retaining walls and widening the sidewalk so the trail can go into the village 150 feet more then it hits Newbury Street. The Merchant's Association is extremely opposed to this as well as our organization. We

went through the process, we went through the city. It would be too bad to demolish all this good work. I would like to ask the MWIA Association for their support in opposing this.

David: I called the Parks Dept after learning this **they** seemed sympathetic that this was not ideal. They seemed committed to find a compromise solution.

Paul Levine: We sent our emails to parks and rec, as well as City Council office. We have not gotten a response.

Lindsey: You should talk to Yitzy about this – we should all be on the same page and get Yitzy's office involved.

Paul: I think that is a good strategy. I would like to have a board resolution to say that the board is opposed to doing this.

Question: What is the counter argument?

David: That they want a 6 foot width for the trail on that section. The argument that there is no opportunity to get that.

Paul: Right now they have 3 foot width, they want to widen it, but then they have to cut into the hillside.

David: It would be removed.

Paul: You would have a block wall.

MOTION to oppose the destruction of the wall.

Comment from board member: I want to see the drawings. I am concerned about strollers.

Lindsey: Do you have the emails?

Paul: People are expected to go on existing sidewalks to the light rail.

Paul: We have emails from Betsy Gardner telling them that we talked to everyone that we were supposed to. The walls would be destroyed for a silly reason.

Board member: Having gone to the meetings I never heard anything about the retaining wall. It was my understanding that once it was in the village it was on the road. If it is being changed by the city?

Board member: Why don't we ask if they delay any distribution so that we need more information? I love that garden, but it doesn't seem responsible to have a piece of paper to look at. This is not how decision making is made.

Lindsey: We don't have a quorum. I think the board members are distressed and we will do what we can and to sit with Yitzy.

☐ **MOTION:** In favor of writing a letter in opposition to the destruction of the garden in Mt. Washington passes. In Favor: 8 Opposed: 7

☐ Lindsey: Another candidate Ivan Bates running for State District Attorney is here at the meeting.

☐ ☐ **Bylaw Amendment** Lindsey: We have an amendment to the bylaws and that is pretty straightforward. We discussed and recommended it as a board to shrink to 18 at large directors. Now it has 18 at large and the area captains. It makes for a very large board. We almost missed our quorum, which makes it hard to move votes along. We settled on 18 at large directors. They are all 3 year terms. What we did to preserve geographic representation is that the slate must contain at least one board member from each of the 7 areas.

Mt. Washington is a large community and we want to make sure that each of the interests is represented. I have copy of the bylaws and our proposal. It makes a minor amendment to the provision that makes 18 at large directors.

Lindsey: Any questions?

Question: What is the current size of the board?

David: 18 at large, 7 area captains, an area director and then the three past presidents. Are we not counting the one past president?

Lindsey: We are still retaining the past presidents.

Board member: There should be a motion on the floor to discuss.

Lindsey: I move to adopt shrinking the board to 18. Move the amendment to change the bylaws to 18.

Paul: We went through this and saw whether we could come up to date. We were advised that we should have a minimum number and a maximum number. We are required to have a quorum at each meeting.

Community member: I am concerned that we are reducing the global footprint of our community, to reduce it for convenience does not serve the community very well. It has grown to 29 – allowing for non attendance, etc. I am more than a little concerned. This suggests that instead of the structure of the bylaws, that are elected on a yearly basis, at large 3 year basis with a rotating basis of number. All 18 members be elected at the same time. That is a concern that the motion is not very explicit in intent as well as fundamentally concerned that we are reducing our core group – this is a community of 1700 families that have varying meeting, that have neighborhood issues. I would like to hear them. To allow for different opinions to be presented throughout our community. I suggest we think long and hard before we reduce our board.

Board member: I have been in charge of recruitment for 4 or 5 years. We put multiple emails on the listerv, multiple – beat the pavement. By the end, we might have convinced 25 or 26 people. The number that shows up. Every year it is the same thing. We put out calls and get zero.

Board member: this is the most important meeting of the year, this is the meeting to be at. And we had to raise hands. This is about the interest level being. I heard I want the variety of voices on this issues. The people who show up – they don't know the issues. Rehashing things. People didn't read the documents.

Board member: We didn't talk about it before our last community meeting. We need our area captains, to represent all the areas. It seems too complex to have to squeeze the 18 delegates over the areas. Also, it is too fast, we didn't have much time to discuss it with the community. There is new blood coming.

Lindsey: We had vacancies this year on the board. A lot of absences. The board doesn't take action.

Comment from former board member: The advantage is having the area captain. It was a nice stepping stone. I was new to the neighborhood, there is something not so scary about doing something for one year. It is a chance to see what interests you – and then move on up. It is a way to identify people to become interested. That is how a lot of people start.

Board member: A copy of the motion should be distributed so we could read it.

Lindsey: All this is moot we don't even have our membership quorum. We can't do that – we will take that up next year.

Councilman Yitzy Schleifer Update: I will give a quick update. We have been dealing with a lot of thigns and trying to help cut through the red tape. We are working on getting that camera moved. I am not sure what it is doing there. We are rescheduling a new traffic study for the two streets now the school.

Recently I did two bills – the diaper duty bill, kids being changed on tables on chairs. Dr. Wen and I worked closely to put the bill in.

The second thing which I started in Mt. Washington – the dump the stump. I got a call about tree stumps, I found that we have all the stumps. We are paying out more in lawsuits than it would cost to remove. The sidewalk and the street – the city's responsibility. Will now have stump removal with tree removal. In addition funding to remove tree stumps. We have 219 tree stumps inventoried.

Questions?

□ Louise Cornell: Storm water fee for street sweeping. Now it is discontinued. Can you give me an update on street sweeping?

□ Yitzy: They cover the entire city – I requested that I will do a ride along with them to see how they are doing it. See the route map so I know when they are there.

□ Charlie Ravenna: There are two vacant house issues. The red house near NW park and the other is the red house on the backside of the baseball field. The roof is starting to collapse on them –

Yitzy: Let us know who to speak with.

Delagate Rosenberg: We went to city college together – the President of UB. Maybe I can help you.

Yitzy: We need that letter from UB. I know the request is in. Should escalate it.

David: Can I coordinate with Shelley to tie in with Delegate Rosenberg’s office to get this happen?

Del Rosenberg: cc me on the coorespondence and copy me.

□ □ **Pimlico Update:** Delegate Rosenberg: Just came from a meeting about future use. The overwhelming majority testifie in support of keeping the Pimlico as a racetrack. The momentum is with us those of us who want to keep the track open, to have imaginative multi-use, accessible to both neighborhoods. It is not going to be an urban farm. We are doing 21st Century Jobs.

Delegate Gibson: One of the most important things is the Kirwin commission. Will go with 21 century schools. We have 7 21st century schools in our district. We passed a bill which would require that the proceeds of the casino go into a lock box to be used for schools. Schools receivef \$40 million dollllars for repair of HVAC. Passed a bill that banned bump stocks. Bit by bit we can reduce gun violence. Also a bill to reduce operating hours of taversn and bars in certain communiities.

□ □ **Lindsey: Approval of slate of new board members**

Thanked board members who are leaving for their service: E. Seaberg, S. Manning, G. Jackson and S. Grant.

□ She was going to read slate but a community member noted that the slate doesn’t comply with the by-laws. The post card that was mailed lists ALL verses just new board members. This slate is invalid. The card was written on the “new by-law” which we didn’t adopt. There was acknowledgement from board members that this was correct.

□ □ Julie made a presentation of a bouquet of flowers along with praise and thank yous to Lindsey for her service as president over the past two years.

□ □ **1700 South Road Development (former St. John's Church)** David Warschawski, potential new owner, introduced himself and his company then made an informal presentation of what their plans are for 1700 South Road. A powerpoint presentation was shown. [A request to include this powerpoint in the minutes was declined] He plans to close on the purchase on or before July 31.

□ He noted that the company is a full-service marketing communications agency. They have been in Mount Washington for 15 years and have offices in DC and NYC too. The building will be owner occupied. There are approximately 20 staff in Baltimore.

□ He said that they have secured parking in adjacent parking lot for team members and visitors.

□ He said that the stained glass will be bought by the CEO of Agora Company, Myles Norin, for a church in Nicaragua.

□ He said that J. C. Porter is the builder selected for this project. They have strong experience in historical renovations. Interestingly it was discovered that John, of J.C. Porter, has a previous connection to the church because his family had donated the stained glass window in the basement. This will be returned to his family. SM&P is the architect. They did the Mount Washington Tavern.

□ The current ADA entrance will become the main entrance while the existing front will be modified into an interior space.

□ The lighting fixtures in main sanctuary will remain but be elevated..

□ They plan for work to be done by 2019.

□ There will be a small place for out-of-town staff and visitors to spend the night.

□ A community member noted that the proposal needs to go through CHAP and the Architectural Review Committee.

□ Paul Levine of the Mount Washington Preservation Society asked about a set budget for landscaping and asked if he could see the plans. Then Warschawski said if this isn't going to work he can walk away from the purchase.

Meeting concluded.