

12-12-2017 MWIA Open Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes taken by Danielle Shapiro

- Meeting commenced at approximately 7:30pm at the Mount Washington School
- Introductions and assignments: □
- Julie Tong, Vice President, and David Nemerson, Treasurer, co-led the meeting.
- Introduction of Visitor: **Fire Department**, took questions from audience. Where are you located? (Glen Avenue), What else do you do? We run with the ambulances. They are very busy, we go first. If you leave your house, should you unplug everything? They would say no, except for power strips. Maybe turn the water off for the washer. Power strips are fire hazards. Suggests getting a CO meter. Are you fully staffed? Yes, 4 shifts, 4 people on each shift. Left a leaflet about CO.
- Community member asks that the fire department stay to talk about Kelly Avenue. David Nemerson: They recognize that it is tight. Community member: It needs to be addressed. Let him know that there are still irate residents.
- Evan from **CeaseFire**: Says Happy Hanukah and maybe next year don't schedule a meeting on the first night of Hanukah. Wants to report back from last meeting asked about a Mt. Washington event and community event. Next Ceasefire weekend is the first weekend in February. Going to have a Ceasefire North meeting.

Committee Updates:

- **Traffic Updates** (Julie Tong)

There was a field meeting in early October to address concerns related to excessive speeding near the schools. In the last week or so, there was a car crash into a pole in front of the lower building. The traffic committee has asked for a number of things, one of them being speed bumps on Sulgrave, Speed cameras on Kelly Avenue and a speed camera on Smith Avenue. We are open to different kinds of traffic calming devices. . We have asked for more crossing guards. We requested stop signs at the corner of West Rogers and South Bend Road. Recently, on December 7 we requested that DOT investigate a traffic calming measure at Cross Country Blvd. and Sulgrave Avenue.

Kwame Rose from the Department of Transportation to report. Few updates from the walkthrough. I will start with good news. You have asked for speed cameras, the proposed speed cameras, near the Mount Washington school has been approved. We are in the process of moving forward, likely happen in the next few weeks. DOT acknowledges that the traffic committee requested re-installation of the camera on Kelly Avenue. Unfortunately, DOT did not approve this request based on the data available. Also since there is construction taking place, we will continue to monitor the location, if the issues are consistent then we will reconsider the request.

As it relates to the crossing guards, there are several schools that are missing crossing guards. Julie asked that we put striping on Lochlea Avenue, so that it is a right turn only lane and a left lane, before and after school. You can now bombard me with all of your requests.

Community member: I live on Kelly Avenue and trying to get out of my driveway, although you don't have accidents you have speeding. There are people that speed down that street. Not only that the buses, I urge you to reconsider on those speed cameras. That road needs to be paved, people are walking. It is dangerous.

Kwame Rose: We are not saying no to the speed cameras, we are saying there is construction. We will reconsider looking at it. There are federal guidelines.

Community Member: Asked about speed within one mile of school.

Kwame Rose: The old cameras are not being activated. For speed bumps, you need cameras being 80% over limit.

Community Member: I live on Kelly Avenue. I have lost animals, 3 vehicles, my boat has been hit, my truck has been hit. I have communications with your department from 1994, Colonel Fox – they know me. You have a hill coming down, you must apply your brakes. Buses, emergency vehicles need to come through, just past the elementary school, they floor it. They past going eastbound. We have been fighting this for 30 years. A lot of effort has been put into this. With the bike trail, now it is more dangerous. It is really scary.

Kwame Rose: After the construction is complete, we will reconsider investigating that location.

David Nemerson: Can you speak to the paving issue? There is a gap where the barrels are. It is very challenging. Are we going to be stuck with that condition all winter long?

Kwame Rose: We can make the request, but it may not happen as quickly as you like. You can also ask Councilman Yitzy's office about repaving the road.

Community Member: I remember 10 years ago with the same process with the cameras on Kelly Avenue. We had a police officer with a speed camera, he made 10 tickets including a city bus. You need to go back to your records and say to use who have lived in this area for 30 years. There have been zero reported accidents on Kelly Avenue. 10 years is way too far.

Community Member: What do you count as an accident?

Community member: It won't become a police report in Baltimore City unless an ambulance is called. The other issue that you have a contract for the paving of the new pathway, you have not even started moving all the storm drains that are there. How can you possibly say you are going to get this done in the next 6 months?

Kwame Rose: I know they are doing construction.

Community Member: When it snows on Kelly Avenue and Cross Country, now you have this open rut against the curb – there is no way you are going to be able to plow this area, you are

asking for major accidents in this thoroughfare. It is preposterous that we should go and talk to our Councilman about getting this paving done.

Kwame Rose: I take your concerns to the Department. If I go in tomorrow and say the community wants the street repaved – there is a process. Each city council person has a number of streets that they can request being repaved within that year. The normal process in DOT is that they will take time.

Julie Tong: This is an important for him to explain – it is good to have this important conversation.

Community Member; We have been begging for a traffic calming device on Sulgrave, especially Sulgrave between Cross Country and the school. The DOT put in a speed monitor – half of the time was during winter break, during schools. Also if people are speeding when it is not school time. There are not children walking to school.

Kwame Rose: The latest study on Sulgrave was from 12/21-1/22 what we found is that 85% of the speed never went over 26 miles per hour. 85% of the cars need to be over the speed limit to get a bump. I will ask the deputy director of traffic if they will come back and investigate.

Community Member: I have seen 2 children hit by vehicles on Cross Country and Sulgrave. There is a school bus stop on that corner that is a main thoroughfare.

Kwame Rose: The fire department doesn't like speed bumps.

Community Member: What is considered extensive? How long would it take to have traffic calming? We need a protective crosswalk at Sulgrave and Cross Country.

Kwame Rose: Speed studies take up to a 160 days.

Julie Tong: To summarize, the priorities are:

1. Review the data again to identify whether a traffic calming device, particularly speed cameras are necessary on Kelly Ave. once construction on the road is complete
2. Conduct another study to identify whether a traffic calming device, particularly speed bumps on Sulgrave Ave would be appropriate (particularly because speed bumps have been requested by residents and supported by the traffic committee)
3. Evaluate the intersection Cross Country and Sulgrave Ave to determine whether a traffic-calming device is necessary.

Councilman's Schleifer:

I see share the frustrations when dealing with the transportation issues. One request that they granted, was to Cross Country and Kelly Avenue was to pave it. I put in the requests. I see a lot of faces of people that have reached out to us. I met with a bunch of parents here that the crossing guards have been frozen, any time one leaves, they have not filled the positions. I sponsored a resolution with Councilwoman Clark that the crossing guards will be fully funded.

I will take other questions:

Community Members; I am from the Cross Country association, Falstaff, I have had issues with my corner, can you shed light on why you think with the new director why is it a slow or non-moving train at DOT? What can we do?

Councilman: We can have a city council meeting.

David Nemerson: One of the major selling points of the trail was that it would have traffic calming. We were told that the narrowing would calm traffic. As part of that the road would be paved from curb to new curb, at this point, when we went out and said to the community – was part of the community was told it would happen.

Councilman: I have asked every person who told it to me, who said that would be the case. I can go back to that person. We will fight until that street gets repaved.

Community member: No body likes surprises. There is a lot of support for the group, when they began to stake it out. I went to the park and recs guy he made he it clear 10-foot parking lanes, that he was doing his trail. When he was done with his trail, 2nd project was the stream restoration. He wasn't going to allow him to proceed until the Kelly avenue portion was signed off, we made it clear that paving was not in his park and recs bike path.

Community member: Does anyone know when the path will be done on Kelly Avenue?

David Nemerson: 2019 is the expected dates.

Community Member: obviously there is a disconnect between DOT and parks and rec and any other entity that is supposed to get this project done. My only suggestion at this point is that DOT and parks and rec recognize that this is a hazard and it is going to get worse. We are going to have rain and snow and have this whole section fill up with ice. I think the least that could be done that can be done that someone recognize that this is a hazard and this can be taken care of. If that means temporarily opening up those storm drains? Whatever is needed. I think the message that you bring back is that this is a hazard and has to be addressed.

Councilman: I will ask for a plan for what they will do. I was concerned personally, I thought it was too narrow.

□ **Visitor:** Avrham Sour, Cross Country Community Association, without the people here we wouldn't have the beautiful neighborhood we have here. We have the same issues in Cross Country. We have seen the same issues not get resolved. Nothing ever happens. There are some things that get done. We did have speed bumps that were put in on Cross Country, within a week they were taken away. We wanted to talk about Crime and the slots issue and where the money has gone. We would like to work together with Mount Washington. We have not gotten together in a year. We need to do that again. We need to ensure that the money goes to our neighborhoods.

□ **Delegate Sandy Rosenberg, Senator Nathaniel T. Oakes, Delegate Belal Ali, Delegate Angela Gibson joined the meeting for a Pimlico update:** We do have an update. The mayor has asked the Governor to set aside the portion of the slots money to be used at Pimlico, instead of what is currently happening – there is a second set of funds for track improvements. The mayor has asked, just send the letter to the Governor for him to pressure the jokey club. Or escrow up to 50% for Pimlico.

Ira Kolman: How much money are we talking about?

Delegate Rosenberg: It says to the racetrack are you going to complain about this or are we going to say the money doesn't go away. First study says it isn't viable. If we are not able to come up with the money, their use at Laurel is being delayed not prohibited. It is an interesting way to see where the governor is. What it says is that you should be testifying during the summer? WE also heard from the city tonight that Sinai is looking at expanding beyond its current site. Perhaps developing on the parking site. Then parking would be available.

Ira Kolman: They own that lot.

Delegate Rosenberg: They would be willing to swap land with them. Other land would be available. If we are talking about development, there is real interest in developing this site. We need to think about our strategy in terms of still having the remodeled racetrack facility. That would include the infield as well. The five groups met before in terms of the slots money.

Senator Oakes: the recommendation was that the community association are involved.

Ira Kolman: Are there any people in Annapolis that are not in favor of keeping Pimlico?

Delegate Rosenberg: the crucial question will be in a year – will the governor finance this for the city. It will be an issue in the election, I assume.

Delegate Ali: We need to be conscious that this governor has not been kind to Baltimore. Even the things are talking about, a lot is speculation. We might have someone more sympathetic to the needs of Baltimore. Baltimore is a great town and we have been treated unfairly when it comes to resources. He should recognize that Baltimore has always been a hub of the state.

Senator Oakes: He took the money for the subdivisions he gave it to them. We are decreasing in population.

□ **Update on Slots, David Nemerson:** We have received some funds like the playground in Northwest Park and the baseball field. Some ideas that have been discussed – dismantling the ruins in Northwest Park. The baseball diamond – needs an outfield fence. A feasibility study to determine what needs to be done with the white Fieldhouse building – 1.25 million to renovate the building. Another item is – a lot of trees were removed from the park as the trail came through – we would like additional money to restore the tree canopy. We would like to see a new tree canopy. We are continuing to solicit new ideas from the community that would be valuable for the local slots funds.

Community member: This is not the money to use for traffic related funding. Not studying traffic, they are supposed to be for traffic.

Community member; In Roland Park – they funded a sentry that displays the speed- it is better than nothing.

Julie Tong: that is something we can entertain.

Scot Vanderpool: I just joined the board and my issue is the slots funding. I went to the meeting at Pimlico. The slots funding is primarily for capital purposes benefitting economic and community development. We are part of the 1-mile radius around Pimlico – this year we are eligible to receive \$800,000 dollars. I am in touch with at least one residents from the other neighborhoods, Sean Stinnet.

Community members: Is that money for Mount Washington?

Scot Vanderpol: that is the total sum that all neighborhoods are eligible. That is 15%. The other 85% is for Park Heights. I am talking with other leaders to come together to make a regional plan.

Delegate Rosenberg: There are 3 distinct areas that get the 15% amount of the money – there is also Coldspring Newtown, then the third neighborhood is bounded by Druid Hill Park.

Community Member: I am wondering if you have any insight about the \$50,000 used for the ambulance. At that meeting, there were a lot of people that were quite angry who felt that you didn't represent them. There were many comments.

Councilman Schleifer: To what Delegate Rosenberg was saying, looking at Fiscal Year 18 – there is a designated amount. Then it broken down it works by population. I am happy to show anyone the map. 70% goes to the SNAP area. 5% goes to Coldspring Newtown. I was at a community association meeting. They had a presentation about how they fit into this percentage. They failed to submit a plan. Mount Washington did not submit a plan for 2017. We advocated for the people who submitted a plan.

The car is from the previous year spending plan. There was money that was left unallocated, we had a meeting with Planning and they show us what is unallocated There were public safety funds that were not allocated. There were requests by organizations that save the city a lot of money. Ira will remember when this money first started, there was a town hall meeting where they requested everyone come to the local schools.

Everybody said their 3 priorities, I took pictures of those 30 different options. The item that came in first place. It was number 1- to strengthen and support community safety groups. Everyone thought that was the best use of the funds. A lot of money has gone towards public safety. And goes to organizations that save countless lives. As far as vehicle goes – they had those same people locked up twice.

Community Member: How much does Shomrim cover? Is it in a mile radius?

Councilman: These organizations are located in the city. A lot of their calls are the city. The city supports countless causes such as the food bank.

Community Member: What percentage of the calls are in the city?

Councilman: Both of them the areas are the SNAP neighborhoods. Both organizations service people in all SNAP areas.

Community Member: Most of it is the county – it goes past the one-mile radius of Pimlico.

Councilman: These organizations provide millions of dollars of services in Baltimore City.

Community member: Why was it a \$50,000 SUV? Why was it necessary?

Councilman: They put in a request for a command vehicle with all the equipment.

Community member: Both of these organizations have been receiving money – funds from slots funds. Don't remember how many.

David Nemerson: How are these funds supposed to be spent?

Delegate: They are supposed to be spent in a one-mile radius of the tracks. Instead of just certain parts of those neighborhood it is now by law the area – in some neighborhoods it goes beyond one mile.

Susan Manning: I witnessed an incident in Luckman where Shomrim members appeared to be harassing black youth who were using the park. These are not police officers.

Councilman: How did you identify them? I can't answer a third party thing. There are plenty of safety patrol groups. When it comes to Shomrim I am supportive of them. All these groups have standard operating procedure with Baltimore Police.

Community Member: Is this Shomrim related to a member of your family?

Councilman: Yes, a cousin of mine is involved. This model should be replicated elsewhere. In fact, Mount Washington residents are encouraged to join. They are open to that.

Scot Vanderpool: Did you get money that was unallocated?

Councilman: It was allocated towards public safety in that area. I represent a diverse district and I have supported every request, Mount Washington has made the most request and I have delivered.

Shelley from Councilman Schleifer's office: December 18th will have a meeting about the process of applying for slots funds at the Northwest Police District.

Announcements:

Board members –

Attendance: Holly Coleman, Ira Kolman David Nemerson Danielle Shapiro Julie Tong,
Gwendolyn Jackson, Jacq Ziegler, Deb Kleiner, Chris Mincher, Ryan Hopkins, Susan
Manning, Scot Vanderpool, Eric Seaborg, Leslie Moore, Chris Mincher. Ira Kolman,
Susan Manning, Charlie Ravenna