

LONG BEACH CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2022

BOARD ATTENDEES: Richard Wilder, Torben Huge-Jensen, Cathy Collins, Patti Oehmke, Jolene Lauria, Georgia Riedel, Paul Murdoch, Mary Millison Pritchard and Steve Perlik.

CALL TO ORDER: 10:00am

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richard Wilder informed the room of an adjustment to the order of the agenda because we have a guest speaker from the Sheriff's office to address the issue of the hate/bias incident in our community at the end of July.

Paul Murdoch summarized the hate/bias incidence where flyers in plastic baggies, weighted with gravel were thrown into yards in our community late at night. He explained the first people to call police were told that it is legal, and protected as free speech. It is not classified as a hate crime which is a misdemeanor; these hateful acts are considered bias incidents and are tracked by the police and reported to the attorney general where the statistics are tracked. He introduced Officer Kelly, Sheriff's office representative, who has been with the force for 10 years. Office Kelly told attendees that 150 residents were affected by the hate/bias incident and most incidents are isolated to the Southern end of Calvert County. Other counties in Southern Maryland have been impacted by the same hate/bias incidents and Officer Buck is on the inter-county task force that tracks incidents of this kind. He explained that they were able to obtain camera footage, but it was too blurry to get a plate id. They believe it is a red passenger vehicle and they have identified a suspect and are keeping an eye on them. They have also contacted the FBI with this information. The group that instigates these hate/bias incidents on a nationwide basis are headquartered in California and Florida. Their website has the hate documents that are downloaded and printed by the perpetrators who disseminate them in the dark of night all across the country. Paul Murdoch has printed some "Hate has no home here" signs that may be purchased for display in yards. Half of the money raised with these signs will go towards National Night Out and the other half will go towards the Episcopal Church's programs that fight this sort of hate/bias.

One attendee expressed concern about speed of cars coming down N. Harbor & Harbor Circle. Officer Kelly said he would take info back to office and see if they could set up surveillance and that they would need to know what time of day it happens. They will also look at where the blind curves are and if signage is needed from the county.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial reports for July and August (attached to these minutes) were distributed to attendees and Cathy Collins, Treasurer, explained every itemized transaction (disbursements and deposits). Voice Vote approved and accepted the financial statements.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT/SECURITY UPDATE

Debbie Berens will be attending the bi-monthly safety meeting on Monday. She will bring up the resident's concerns about speeding on N. Harbor & Harbor Circle.

OLD BUSINESS

- **New Community Billboard & Signage**

Shane Leonard built the sign and installed the laminate printing for the sign. Paul Murdoch explained that Long Beach and Calvert Beach split the costs for the original sign according to percentage of population per community. Long Beach paid for and gets use of 2/3 of the sign and Calvert Beach paid for and gets use of 1/3. Paul distributed and discussed Rules for the sign such as no hate speech, permission required to post, rules about removing event signage within 24 hours of the event's end, the right of LBCA to remove/destroy posting and contact info for sign. Richard Wilder noted this info will be posted on website, and maybe an email blast. He also suggested posting a QR code on the sign that will take them to the rules on the website.

- **Road Paving Update**

Patti Oehmke provided an update on the LBCA Roadworks Project. Patti explained that about a dozen paving contractors in SOMD were contacted to determine interest in our 2 miles of private roads. Eight contractors responded affirmative. Information packets with maps were prepared for two contractor meetings (4 companies at each meeting) hosted by Richard Wilder and Patti Oehmke. At the first meeting, the contractors explained that they needed engineered specifications for the projects so that when the LBCA received competitive bids they would be standardized rather than having the contractor make assumptions about work to be done. The second meeting with contractors was cancelled and replaced with a meeting with Jay Hopson, an engineer highly recommended by one of the contractors. Jay Hopson has lived in Chesapeake Ranch Estates for 30 years and was the engineer who helped their community with 65 miles of private roads and storm water management. The scope of his proposal is to provide planning and engineering services for roadway maintenance and improvements. This project will encompass the design of repairs for stormwater, storm drainage and roadways at various locations throughout the community. He will provide engineered drawings, specifications and permitting services as required to facilitate improvements. If the board votes to accept his proposal we will then provide the bidding contractors with sets of these documents from which to create their quotes. The LBCA will provide updates on these projects as progress is made.

- **North Beach Parking Lot Resurfacing**

Georgia Riedel reported that the edges of the lot where it meets the beach did not fully adhere because of the sand and it is crumbling. She recommended planting along the front edge to help support the areas where millings are not holding well in the sand. Richard Wilder said that he would have J. Calvin Wood come take a look at it as well.

- **National Night Out**

Carla Hance was thanked for her work on this project which was a huge success. Every year Carla takes this project on and coordinates volunteers and details that make this a special fun evening for everyone in the community. Carla expressed thanks for volunteers and donations; attendance 188 (wristbands), she saw people not wearing wristbands so she estimates 200 attendee. She reported that the DJ had problems with the heat

affecting his amps. Food was the exact amount needed. There was excellent participation from the County Sheriff's office, the Fire Department, Coast Guard, and County Health Department. Firetrucks and Emergency vehicles were on display and firefighters, EMTs and SWAT team answered questions, also demonstration of K-9 skills. When people donate they need to specify that it is a donation for NNO so that it can be used to defray expenses.

NEW BUSINESS

- **LBCA rental fee update**

Torbin Huge-Jensen reported on the new rental fees. Torbin explained that he met with Demetriss Atchison and expressed appreciation for her work on renting out the community center for the past 10 years. The new rental fees will be posted to the website and with an email blast to the community through Constant Contact. Members can still rent Community Center for \$50, Long Beach Resident (non-member) fee is \$175, Non-resident fee is \$350.

- **SWM Catch Basin Clean Out**

Steve Perlik coordinated a recent clean out of the catch basin by J. Calvin Wood. Steve noted that fees from J. Calvin Woods for this service have gone up due to gas prices and inflation. Steve recommended that we have the roadworks engineer include storm water solutions with the focus on the property on Bayview that is flanked by two ravines that dump into the catch basin at the end of Cedar. The county can install curbing that would direct stormwater to county drains instead of how it is currently directed into the ravine. Steve introduced J.B. Gray who owns the property next to the catchment basin at the end of Cedar. JB has experience working with land-related issues and is interested in helping with the SWM Committee.

- **Outstanding Road Fees**

Cathy Collins and Georgia Riedel reported that they research any questions a property owner may have about their road fees and will issue refunds if they find that the road fee has been calculated incorrectly. Cathy and Georgia spend a lot of their volunteer time looking at deeds and covenants for each individual property. Their service to our community is invaluable and much appreciated by those of us who know of their efforts.

Cathy provided a report on the balance due from road fees. The deadline for payment was extended until September in order to resolve any outstanding issues with disputes. The LBCA will send another invoice to those with outstanding payments. If homeowners are choosing not to pay their road fees the LBCA will pursue payment. Cathy reported that the outstanding road fee balance is \$19,014.77 and long-time debtors (sometimes referred to as deadbeats) is \$7,398. Much of this long-time debt may not be recoverable, as they are unbuildable lots, abandoned by the owner and not purchased when the state places them for sale for unpaid taxes (and no one wants to buy them). Others may be paid if and when the property transfers title. Some lots have been offered to the LBCA and the board declines because then the LBCA would be responsible for property taxes.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Facebook**

LBCA has been unsuccessful in obtaining administrator status from Facebook because past facebook administrators no longer have the password which is needed to authorize new or additional administrators. LBCA may have to establish a new facebook page. Georgia Riedel has a connection with someone who may be willing to take this on. And if anyone in the community has experience with these type of administrative issues with Facebook, please help us.

- **Beaches Water Co-op**

Fritz Riedel with the Beaches Water Coop announced that there will be a meeting at 3pm today at the community center. He stated that the water is desperate for volunteer board members. The Co-op is required to have 5-7 members and experience difficulty meeting that requirement. Fritz explained that while there is a separate water system for Calvert Beach, the co-op's water line does not follow the Long Beach/Calvert Beach property lines and some homes in Calvert Beach are serviced by the co-op, but not many. Patti will send out an email blast for volunteers. The Co-op plans to replace lines that are having lots of failures, Balsam Rd and other areas. Fritz reported that the Co-op's water quality is in the top 10% in the United states; the water is constantly being monitored to maintain this standard of excellence.

- **Open Discussion**

Rita ONeal, meeting attendee, would like to be involved in working with gate guard coverage when the schedule is set up next year. She would like to see a larger sign for North Beach (residents only, towing enforced) and would volunteer to look into other security measures for the beach like a gate with a combo code or some sort of electronic mechanism for property owners. Rita does not feel that we have the best gate presence at North Beach.

ADJOURN 11:25– Next Meeting is October 8th, 2022

Any questions on Road Fees or LBCA memberships can be discussed directly with members of the Board or sent to LBCA@longbeachcommunity.org