

HICKORY RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
July 18, 2011

Vice-Chairperson John Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:30pm at The Hawthorn Center. Those present included Linda Hitzelberger, Tom Louden and Michelle Wood. Also present were Columbia Council Rep Gregg Schwind, Land-Use Liaison Joan Lancos and Village Manager Jane Parrish.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 20TH MINUTES: The minutes were approved as submitted.

RESIDENT SPEAKOUT: There were no residents who wished to speak on non-agenda issues.

VILLAGE ALLOCATION REVIEW: CA Director Andy Stack discussed the Village Allocation Policy. CA's External Relations Committee has been charged with reviewing the policy. Committee members Tom Coale and Cindy Coyle also attended. Mr. Stack explained the history of the allocation policy, the method of determining the funding for the villages and present-day concerns about the allocation. He asked the Village Board for comments. Those are attached.

CA BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT: Mr. Schwind updated the Village Board on the plans for Symphony Woods. The County's Design Advisory Panel had reviewed the plans and was not impressed. Mr. Schwind explained that the plan submitted by not detailed but rather a basic concept. The development of the area will be in stages. He reported that the CA Board would discuss environmental issues and recycling at the July 28th meeting. He mentioned that he disagreed with the placement of the placement of the recycling containers on CA property. He thought they should sit adjacent to regular trash collectors so that people do not put trash in the recycle containers.

Mr Schwind talked about Executive Ulman's recent ban on smoking at county parks. He asked the Village Board member if they thought CA should follow suit. Opinions were mixed.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Ms Parrish reminded the board about the August 3rd Adult Pool Picnic and updated the board on the number of applicants for the Village Manager position. She reported that Howard County had completed the sidewalk of the west side of Cedar Lane leading down to the Robinson Nature Center. She asked the board to consider capital items for the upcoming CA budget discussions. CA would like the villages' input by August 26. After much discussion the board decided to ask for planning funds for a resident-friendly gathering place at the CA 3-acre lot at the Village Center. Ms Parrish will ask for residents' opinions in the next LOG. She will also contact Kimco officials about the possible project.

BOARD COMMENTS: Mr. Louden said he would like to see an organization chart of CA. Ms Hitzelberger reported a pile of branches blocking the sidewalk on Sunny Spring. She also said her neighbors had spotted the coyote. Ms Wood and her children enjoyed the recent CA picnic for employees and volunteers at the SportsPark.

ACTION ITEMS: Ms Parrish will write an article in the Log about development of the Village Center parcel, report the pile of branches on Sunny Spring, give Mr. Louden a copy of the CA organizational chart and contact Kimco about the CA parcel at the Village Center.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Parrish
Village Manager

Andy Stack, CA External Relations Committee
July 18, 2011

Tom Coale and Cindy Coyle from the ERC also attended the presentation to the Village Board. Andy explained that the CA Board of Directors asked the ERC to revisit the Community Association Allocation.

Andy showed a Power Point presentation that outlined the existing allocation formula, its history, considerations and concerns. He asked the board for comments.

- As village facilities age, repair and maintenance costs rise.
- Villages have a low staff turnover rate, especially among the higher-paid positions. Staff costs, therefore, are higher.
- We had a Singer Study in 2001 and 2008. Another should be done in 2015.
- Why is 8,000 sq. feet the cutoff point for determining larger versus smaller operations?
- Is another community building for Hickory Ridge feasible?
- There is a variety of newsletters among the villages. Some print in the body of the Flier; some mail; others insert in the Flier. Costs vary.
- In the future, the villages might need an additional staff position that deals with social media. For example, if Facebook draws many comments/questions, an experienced person must take the time to respond. Policies must be in place.
- Is efficiency penalized if profits are effectively capped by the Contingency Fund Policy?
- If the total of villages' accrued reserves is too high, use a %cap along with a flat cap amount.
- Villages' hours of operation vary.
- Several board members did not like centralized booking of villages' facility.
- Possibility of using Villages' Contingency Fund as an ATM for CA. Interest rate could be lower than CA pays for loans.
- How is CA doing financially? Andy said CA is doing well and has debt under control.