

January 17, 2023

Hybrid Location: YMCA & Zoom

Participants

- 35 participants joined online
- 11 non-board or presenter participants in person

Board

- Marissa Dahl
- Nate Hicks
- John Vaughters
- Kaila Jones
- Aliza Sollins
- Nick Hammond

Attendees

- **Call to Order Welcome** - Marissa Dahl, President EGLS CA - 1min.

Guest Speakers

§ Baltimore Police Department ([Northeastern District](#)) - Safety Update (5min)

§ Clare Court: Denise Fazio (10mins)

§ Councilwoman Odette Ramos (15mins)

Police Department:

Update on carjackings and other neighborhood crime data.

Question from Phyllis McNeal concerning Mervo students. At least 150 students are released and they linger by the Mormon Church on Alameda. Ms. McNeal called 911 because at least 500 students were there and she was concerned about a crowd and potential fight. There is sometimes a police officer at that location, and she saw an ambulance there as well.

Officer Monica Jones-Cooper responded to the concern and mentioned there should be school police helping to patrol that area. She will pass on the concern to the post officer. There was an early dismissal one day last week.

Chat comment asking if the robbery on the 1500 block of Lakeside was in a home or on the street. It was a street robbery.

Question about what happened on the 3800 block of The Alameda.

Question if there was a report on the 1700 block of E. 35th. There was not a report. The resident notes that this happened on Thursday afternoon - detective came to her house and mentioned that there was an assault of a boy and a robbery behind the houses on that block.

Officer Jones Cooper clarifies that most of the robberies were car jackings except for one.

Clare Court (Homes for America)

- Homes for America is an Annapolis-based affordable housing developer
- History given for the building and current use as a home for nuns
- There are currently 10 living units and other residential facilities like a dining room
- The nuns approached Homes for America who developed 30 apartments in the building (1, 2, and 4 bedroom apartments)
- The sisters have all moved to Minneapolis
- Homes for America will purchase the rest of the property from the nuns including the stone building built in the 1800s which is used as a community activities building for the residents
- The current apartments will be renovated and new apartments within the existing structures will be added.
- Will also be adding a three story building with an elevator (will be 83 units in total)
- Currently working on financing through the state and hope to have that completed within the year
- Scott Wolford, a planner and landscape architect, presented about the site design
- Southern portion of the site has trees and meadow - currently measuring the health and location of the trees. A natural resource inventory will be given to the state and they will have limited disturbance, and will maintain buffer tree areas between the properties on Ellerslie
- About 6 - 8 trees will be removed (tree of heaven or other damaged trees only)
- Will be keeping the development to the northwest upper area to prevent drainage from going onto surrounding neighbors. Have reduced the runoff to the adjoining community by 37% percent and will be working to mitigate any particulate matter and setting up a bioretention area to more slowly manage the runoff. A stormwater retention plan will be put in place after the natural resource management plan.
- There will be parking added for the property (83 units)
- The density is less than what is added for the space
- All apartments are restricted to residents with less than 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI)
- Councilwoman Ramos shares her support of the project

Councilwoman Odette Ramos

- January 28: In the YMCA, there will be a meeting about the city budget
- People will have the opportunity to engage with members of the Finance Department and engage with the city budget simulation tool

- Traffic Calming: Odette has received a lot of feedback from her district. City has advocated for more money from the state for traffic improvement projects - city will receive increased funding from the state for the next four years.
- Most streets in the neighborhood want a speed bump
- Alameda and 35th is a horrendous intersection. Community did not want flex posts. Will put in a speed camera. After the flooding construction ends a light will be put in at 35th.
- Windermere will also get speed bumps
- Recycling: Will not be returning to weekly recycling until any time soon. Recycling has been increased because of the new blue bins - the use of the bins has added time to the routes and there is not enough staffing so this is slowing down the process. City is working on this slowly.
- There is a resident request for more clarity on what is recyclable and what is not. Ramos responded that there is a new Zero Waste person so this may be the person to help with these improvements.
- Lake Montebello sinkhole: the construction fencing and repairs should be cleaned up by the end of April. Please contact Ramos if you notice any issues with your water, although there shouldn't be any issues.
- Rita Church Rec Center is closed for repairs (burst pipes)
- There is a request for an improvement to a pedestrian light
- City College students will be moving in the 2024 school year due to repairs. Students will not be in that location for three years. Will return in 2027.
- Question from a resident about whether street sweepers will be returning
- Before a speed bump goes in on a street, DPW will send out a postcard to everyone on the block. If you want the speedbump, do nothing. If you do not want the speedbump, send the card back. If more than 50% of residents sent back the postcards because they do not want a speedbump, there will not be a speedbump.
- There will be a community meeting before any traffic calming
- Resident reminder that Chestnut Hill is a one way - this is a wide street and may need better signage to indicate it is one way
- There is a request for low speedbumps rather than high humps
- There is a resident request to mitigate the trash at Mervo. Odette will mention this to the principal.
- Stormwater update that there will be two pipes on Windemere. There will be more meetings forthcoming.
- There is a question about electric vehicle charging stations and how residents might be able to charge cars on street parking. The city is working on discussing this city-wide as the use of EVs grows.

Board Updates

- o Treasurer's Report (5 min)
- o "No Dumping" Signs (5min)
- o 2022 Review (5min)

§ Hosted 17 events outside of our general membership meetings!

- § Wrote and received grants totaling \$18,494 in funding!
- § Welcomed 103 dues paying Civic Association members!

Treasurer's Report

- Great job on the ornament sale
- Thanks to people who have paid dues, we have new membership cards
- Little over \$1600 in income since last Treasurer's Report (most from Baltimore Community Foundation grant)
- Total funds \$9,561 (includes grant funds)
- We are saving the full approval of the budget until March when we hear back if we received the United Way 2023 neighborhood grant
- We requested membership approval for an administrative budget of \$1,300. Expenditures include mailbox account, website domain, meeting materials, Zoom account.
- Request for motion to approve \$1300
- Motion is seconded. Request for anyone to speak up.
- Question if more or less people are members this year than last year. Response is that it is too early to tell for 2023 to 2022. There was about \$1500 in due received last year.
- The communications committee will follow up later to discuss plans for outreach and engagement through the website, instagram, nextdoor, email newsletter, and other avenues. The board welcomed volunteers to join the communications committee.
- We can only accept dues through PayPal, not CashApp or Zelle because of the conditions of our small business account

No Dumping Signs Update

- Update on the use of grant funds
- President Marissa shared the No Dumping sign designed by Kim Bentley
- We will put a few signs on locations of the Alameda that have the most dumping
- There will also be a flyering effort to let people know what to do with their yard waste
- Marissa is working with the Ramos Green Team and the appropriate people to design the signage
- Resident at the 3700 block living next to the apartment building mentions significant trash in that area. Neighbor has called the owners of that apartment complex (Tiffany) complex on Monterey.
- The city is in court with the owner of the Upshire complex right now due to the dumping. The owner refused to put a fence there so the city is suing them. Ramos recommended to keep calling 311.
- Ramos recommendation is to put "penalty \$1000" on the sign. Some neighbors in certain areas do watch for dumping and have taken photos of dumping vehicles.

2023 Proposed Events (10min)

- o Proposed 2023 Dumpster Days
 - § Saturday, May 6 @ Chestnut Hill & Monterey Rd
 - § Saturday, June 3 @ 35th & Tivoly
 - § Saturday, August 12 @ Tunlaw & Tivoly
 - § Saturday, October 7 @ North Hill Rd & The Alameda
- o May thru Oct - Gardening Days - 3rd Saturday of every month from 10am-12pm
- o May - Neighborhood beautification day, Neighborhood Yard sale (***dependant upon grant funding*)

- June - Baltimore Pop-up Jazz Jam, Ice Cream Social
- September - Baltimore Pop-up Jazz Jam (**dependant upon grant funding)
- October - Fall Event (**dependant upon grant funding)
- December - EGLS Holiday Cookie Tour

Kaila shared a link to the meeting feedback survey:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfdnAG3dJEZuhc9mRS5EEem6UUC3sIXtOuNH-SUCjQCofHJTGA/viewform>

Karen Ellis from the communications committee would like to do a “I Remember When” section of the newsletter to ask for neighborhood memories, and asked people to contact the board to get in touch.

· **2023 Planning Breakout Sessions (10min)**

· **General Announcements (10min)**