

# Ednor Gardens-Lakeside Civic Association

## Membership Meeting Minutes

### January 15, 2019

- **Call to Order & Welcome- 7:31pm (new neighbors, introductions)**
- **Micro Community Policing with Tara Huffman**
  - **Tara Huffman- Director of Juvenile Criminal Justice, Open Society Institute, Baltimore**
    - Micro policing involves working with the police department to identify systemic problems in our neighborhood. It helps the community decide the best way to address issues in their community, activate resources, and work within the neighborhood to determine when to involve police.
    - Baltimore City has a consent decree, which requires it to adopt community policing. The theory is that you can't have a city-wide public safety plan because every neighborhood is different and that could put your community at a disadvantage
    - Tara has the ability to choose 3-5 neighborhoods to help them develop a micro community policing plan to present to the BPD. She explained that she will just help
  - **Questions & Next Steps**
    - A member asked Tara what the planning would look like, to which she replied that she's already soliciting proposals from consultants that can help with resources such as health stats, vacant housing stats, etc. It could take 6-12 months for the plan to be complete and activated, and that it would be about 60 days to have someone in place to start working with the community. She noted that the community could start working now-assigning a committee/roles/etc.
    - Shane noted that for this to be effective, we have to have other community voices heard, perhaps through canvassing
    - A member asked what kinds of data would be collected from the community and how would it be collected, to which Tara replied that the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance already tracks data through census information. You can use the website to mine for relevant information. She said they hold a forum to train people to use the website and other data repositories within the city every summer
    - Shane proposed a motion for the general body of the Civic Association to buy into the process of micro community policing, Joe seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved
- **Board Updates**
  - **Public Safety**
    - Shane informed members that there is now a police major again in the NE District. Natalie Preston was recently promoted to that role, and was previously Captain. He said they're working to schedule Coffee with a Cop-in partnership with GEDCO.
  - **Finance Update**
    - Liana Washburn, Treasurer, reminded members we hold our money in an account at Strong City. They provide services to us, but charge a 9% fee. Liana proposed that we move our money from our account at Strong City to a separate bank account, and become

our own non-profit. Liana would manage our bank account and spearhead the move to become a non-profit.

- Shane told the group that Strong City has been a great partner, but sometimes it's been hard to get access to grant money that we've received and that we don't use the services that they provide anymore.
  - The question was asked, what services would we be losing by moving our money, to which Liana replied that they provide payroll, grant review and fundraising support, but that we can get those services through other community organizations and people
  - A member asked how long we'd been with Strong City, to which Liana replied that it's been 2 years
  - Someone asked how we managed our money before 2017, to which Liana replied that we had a separate bank account
  - Another member asked what our budget is, to which Liana replied that we have about 3k per year, 40% in dues and 60% in grants. She also noted that the Board can't make large purchases without membership approval (\$250 or more)
  - A member asked who would sign checks, what the constraints would be and if there would be a debit card, to which Liana replied that a non-Board member could have oversight, and Shane suggested an independent finance committee
  - Shane asked if there was a motion for us to become our own independent organization through creation of a checking account, nonprofit designation, 2 check signers, no pre-signed checks and no debit card, and a motion was made
  - A member said that they think the nonprofit designation and the bank account should be separate motions, to which Liana replied that she'd like to keep them as one to require more accountability
  - Another member asked what advantage there was to being a nonprofit and what the challenges would be, to which Dwanda Farmer explained that it would be simple- we'd only need to file who the Board Members are now and the amount of money that we receive. Liana explained further that we wouldn't have to pay a fee and we could move more quickly with grant opportunities
  - Shane called for a vote, and 18 were in favor, 1 opposed and 2 abstentions. The motion passed and Shane said that we will have an update at the next meeting
- **Planning for 2019**
    - Shane invited members to go around the room and sign up for any events/projects/committees that they'd like to help with, including the Garden Tour, summer social event, National Night out, neighborhood signs, Housing and Planning Committee, Greening and the newsletter
    - Shane then thanked all members who signed up and let them know that someone will reach out to schedule meetings/next steps
  - **Closing Announcements**
    - Waverly PTO President Angel Kane- every school has to engage the community to build their budget for the next school year. She said there are 2 sessions where they'll ask for input for programming and feedback: Thursday at 9:30-11 then from 4-5:30. Angel noted that this meeting would be great opportunity to check to see how the kids are doing, and that you don't need to have a child to be involved.
    - Shane told the group that we have a Police Commissioner designee and that he'll be working to set up meet and greets

- Corner Team Boxing and Fitness is open and has open gym and Youth Champions Boxing Club, which is free to Baltimore City Students age 8-18
- MTA Link Work Group 14 member Mike Puma, stated the group is aware of changes that need to be made with LINK, such as kids being left at bus stop during half days/snow days
- Mike Puma also mentioned that Roxane Gay is speaking at Loyola
- Dwanda Farmer mentioned that Jeb Bush is speaking at Stevenson

**Meeting concluded at 8:55pm**