

RNA Meeting 1/27/20

Board members: John, Jeff, Jen, Rachel, Rebecca, Jackson

Attendees: 24

Jackson- Parks

- winter season involves a lot of planting
- lots of leaves in the park- rec n parks have a contract with landscaping companies only through fall, then again in the spring. Councilman Costello knows about the accumulation and there should be crews out soon
- Rec n Parks is starting a new turf management branch and will be using the city building at the end of Covington. New roof, cleaning up debris to keep supplies, gardening. It will be great to have a city presence there during the renovation which will be starting soon.
 - Survey stakes are in for environmental assessment.
 - late summer 2020, early Fall field area reno- softball, football, lights, basketball courts, fence, stair repair into dug out.
 - TBD: Red house project will reconfigure building inside- bathrooms are being moved to front, middle will be a concession window for sports leagues to have access for fundraising
- Mid Atlantic Trade Center show donates plants/trees to Riverside
- summer events: picnic in the park on 5/17, concerts on 2nd Sundays June-September planned
- Re: electricity in the gazebo- off due to homeless encampment and mayor's office worked with homeless outreach to move persons into better housing

Councilman Leon Pinkett- running for Baltimore City Council President

- District 7 (West Baltimore)/ 3 yrs
- important election- violence is so high, and we need criminal justice reform/ and coordination b/w offices, public safety is priority #1
- school system is priority and our students are not being prepared for higher education or trade post graduation. Kirwin commission fight is happening now and is important to have the right people fighting for it.
- public safety is an economic issue. Jobs are needed for all city citizens. The city is not preparing citizens for the jobs that are being created.
- Wants to bring back hope to our community- this is through leadership
- Questions:
 - City is not set up for collaboration- how will you address? The Mayors office and the Council President need to be on one team and candidate will fix this.
 - Kirwin commission funded? The city will have to make sound financial decisions on how to fund the city school budget. Candidate sits on the budget committee, and we need to be creative in how to generate new revenue and ask agencies to work w/in the budget they have
 - Are you pro/con having a city manager? On the fence because who would the manager answer to? Also does not fully support the need for another person for oversight.
 - What can the council office do to work with the schools to help with student preparedness? Council president needs to have intention. Ex: Work with DPW to create a career track for middle school students to start learning what they need to know to be hired upon graduation

Thiru Vignarajah- running for Mayor

- Dept. Attorney General for MD
- Family has been involved in Baltimore for a long time through teaching/ education. Classic Immigrant story. Learned hard work, dedication, and value of education.
- Law School, clerked for Justice Dwyer
- Baltimore is a national tragedy. We are declining in population at a high rate. Violence is so high.
- Leadership that is thinking about investment for hundreds of hundreds of year from now
- Some will dos:
 - Will reduce murder rate by half
 - Universal Prek for 3 and 4 yrs old
 - Free college for city residents
 - stimulate the economy

- invest in all neighborhoods
- Questions:
- New York is testing no cash bail, is your plan for bail reform better? There is a period of correction for states that are moving towards no cash bail. Judges need time to figure out the new system. There is a huge divide b/w rich and poor people that is unjust. Candidate suggests using the federal system of no bail w/ a risk assessment tool.
 - How do you pay for all the plans? Property taxes are unjust and that is why people are leaving. We can't cut overnight, but will cut in equal increments over ten years until it is the same as the county. Other ways include: Raise taxes on abandoned properties. Internal audit on all agencies. Tax plan is online for all voters to review.
 - Community Colleges are free, and trade schools are very affordable. Private MD schools give aid. But Umd College Park is very expensive. We can afford to send our kids to college for ½ the BCPD overtime budget.

Jen- Flashing Bill in State house

- during the fall a man was found exposing himself around playground and TJEMs and Prep. He was finally arrested and is now serving 18months.
- the max penalty is 3 yrs. There is no difference in MD b/w exposing yourself in front of kids and adults
- There is a bill introduced currently that will maintain the existing law and adds that if the exposing is in front of a minor the penalty fine is \$10K, and max penalty is 10 yrs.
- reach out to committees to get bill to floor
 - Go onto the MD general assembly website- look for HB211 and the site tells you who you should contact re: your support or concerns.

Jeff Dewberry- crime and safety chair

- Robberies are down
- Car larcenies are still happening. PLEASE do not leave anything in your car.
- Citizens App is NOT accurate. It is based on a NY company listening to the police scanner and does not get it right all the time
- Eric Costello introduced a bill tonight to get a \$100 credit for security cameras that are also register cameras
- Packages are still being stolen all the time. You can use the UPS store and amazon lockers as alternative places to get packages delivered

DPW- Dr. Nunnley

- Call 311 with DPW issues, and send the confirmation number to help speed things up
- Ongoing Job programs: 18-24yr program for persons to train and have a job w/ DPW. Its a very successful ongoing program.
- larry.nunnley@baltimorecity.gov
- 443-615-2626 (office)
- 443-534-0574 (personal)

Team 46 Event TBD