

RNA Meeting 8/31/20

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

Members: 39

Eric Costello, City Council

- sharp leadenhall incident: a man hit another man w/ a brick, head injury, it was being filmed on purpose for Instagram. BCPD is investigating. Suspect has been identified. Please get in touch with police if you have any camera footage and/or information.

- Q: has the victim been id? No. The victim was not present when police arrived. Hospitals have been searched.

Jeff D, public safety report

- package thefts are still rampant. Black nissan, 4 door is a main culprit and BCPD have specific case on individual. If you have any info please share with BCPD.

- stolen vehicles are on the rise, please lock your cars and don't leave your extra key fob inside.

Parks/Pool (Jackson)

- Busy summer working on the entrance gardens to the park.

- city has addressed rat issues (yellow signs)

- good pool season w/ safety guidance with an appointment system

- working slowly on a bike ramp at heath and Johnson but it has stopped due to blue stone shortage. Hope to finish in September

- Rec and parks have declined to issue any youth sports permits (ex: soccer) for the fall. There are also no high school fall sports.

- Adult leagues have been given permits but have rigorous restrictions and rules.

- there are not park socials planned, but planning for next year

- people have been using the park a lot this summer which is great

q: vacant lot on westfall that is overgrown, owned by city- can we do anything with this space? There is a city program to adopt big lots. RNA has looked at the lot, but reluctant due to lack of a local contact (ex: someone who lives close). But we are more than willing to help with this project if someone wants to be the main liaison/community lead.

Q: Skateboard area? Rec and Parks plans to keep an area in reno.

Speaker: Brandon Scott, City Council President/Mayoral Candidate

- what you can expect: we will move forward and change the administration

-born and bred in Baltimore- except for college (St. Marys)

- Baltimore is not running effectively. This is the main goal. To build better systems.

- Water bill, trash/recycling, crime- these are the systems that need overhaul

- 70% of weapons inside the city can be traced back to outside the city- this needs a strategic plan of attack

- we will build a city government foundation to work for all our citizens.

Q: Rec and Parks is a city agency that has a lot of potential to provide health living options but struggles with funding, bc money raised by programs ends up in the general fund, so there is no incentive to succeed. One of the biggest issues is the lack of internet at rec centers/pools/parks so payments and tracking cannot be done. What will your admin do? I will increase funding for rec and parks (used to work for rec and parks- track led me to college). As city council I opened the rec centers on Saturdays. I want to have dedicated streams of funding for rec and parks and I am excited for this. Re: internet access- the Pugh admin did not act on hot spots/smart cities legislation. I plan to do this for schools and parks.

Q: Park pool, has been in need of renovation and neighbors got grant from SBGP to improve, but we would like to rename it after late Congressman Cummings and we need city commitment. 2025 is the 100 yr anniversary of the pool. I had a very close relationship with Congressman and I miss him immensely. I have already committed to the pool project and renaming and fully support this plan.

Speaker: Dr. Gigi Gronvall, Associate Professor of JHU Public Health and an expert on COVID-19

- presentation slides will be posted

- there is a new rapid antigen test that just got FDA approval, its cheap and fast so this is a good

development. This should be going on the market soon, and can be used for schools, buildings, offices, ect.

- delays in testing are related to the PCR test, which are more accurate but take up to a week to find out results

- antibody tests are not well regulated and only should be used if you are planning to donate convalescent serum

- Vaccines: there are many in current development (36 clinical trials), and there will probably more.

Today there was a suggestion to stop phase 3 for an emergency, but this is very dangerous and we need all the data that we can get. Please contact your congress rep.

- all the candidates for the vaccines have reported being sick for a few days. It will be different than flu shot.

- Please get your flu shot!!!

- ggronvall@jhu.edu please send any questions, and if I cannot answer I will find someone who can

q: over the last week there has been news coverage re: to air/droplet spread- when reading studies it is important to know what environment the test was done. Its a curve. There will be time when people are more likely to spread and the opposite

q: diff b/w asymptomatic and undetectable. The regulations are not clear and the language on test results are unclear.

Q: how far does it spread outdoor? When unmasked. There have not been enough studies to be clear, but we recommended 6 ft, and other countries recommend 3 meters. Its duration + distance.

Q: time frame for wide spread vaccines? Nursing homes and healthcare workers first, then high risk people, then everyone else. TBD on when. Hypo: dec or January might have some vaccines available to some people.

Q: is there a diff b/w kid and adult vaccines? No kids have been tested in America and are unlikely to pass FDA approval. They are actively recruiting minority populations and pregnant women.

Q: getting close to fall and families are considering holidays, and people have different of opinions on what should be done. Is there a risk metric to use/share? Georgia Tech has a good graphic to share. But this doesn't account for travel. www.covid19risk.biosci.gatech.edu

Reminder: no recycling until 10/31/20

community drop off at DHHS Mon-Friday 9-3pm or Reedbird Ave center for larger items and later hours, Mon-sat 9am-7pm

Announcement: Wileys has been given a parklet permit and has started the reno/preparations to have more outdoor space. RNA is working with other restaurants to get similar permits.

Reminder: if you have a neighborhood issue please have a friendly conversation first before reporting to authorities. Renters you have a responsibility to clear sidewalks of trash, weeds, snow. Be a nice neighbor. Use 311 if there is a huge issue that cannot be worked out with a conversation first.