



RNA Community Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2021, 7:00-8:00 p.m. via Zoom

Board Members: Rich Badmington, Rachel Wagner, Joelle and Jackson Fisher, Jen McLaughlin, Jeff Dewberry, Becca Charlton

Number of Zoom Attendees: 37

Board Updates

Rachel Wagner, Community Events and Public Safety

Santa will be riding Riverside and South Federal Hill this Friday, Dec 17, 5-7pm. There will be two circuits. See the map/route on Facebook. The weather is calling for rain so there may be a postponement. Watch the FB page for last minute updates.

RNA supports the victims of crimes in the neighborhood. Feel free to email rnabaltimore@gmail.com if you want to report anything to RNA or if you're looking for any support or have any questions working through the legal system.

Jackson Fisher, Friends of Riverside Park

RNA has had three recent cleanups in November with students from St Ignatius, working on erosion in the park, bulb planting on Johnson St., and leaf cleaning along Covington St. Thank you, St. Ignatius!

Last Monday we had our annual Riverside Gazebo Lighting (after missing this event in 2020 due to COVID). The lights should stay lit through the holiday season.

Expect the City to come through for street tree planting early in the new year. They may be pruning as well. Reach out to Jackson with any questions.

Jeff Dewberry, Public Safety

Off-leash dogs have been a consistent issue over the last year. Please be vigilant of those around you. It is the law in Baltimore City to keep dogs leashed in public areas and parks.

Package thefts are up during the holiday season. We recommend reporting activity through the Baltimore City Police website and to 311. We have had some success prosecuting package theft but it requires documented incidents and victims to come forward.

Guest Speakers

Dr. Larry Nunley, DPW

ANY and ALL DPW ISSUES: Larry.Nunley@baltimorecity.gov, or call/text 443-615-2626

You may see street sweeping vehicles soon. This is a pilot. They will be restarting street sweeping soon, but there will be no parking tickets at this time.

New recycling carts/bins are being distributed. Expect them soon if you haven't seen them. The small carts will be slightly delayed. New green trash cans for those requested are also being distributed to those who called 311. Please call right away if you haven't and you need one. Send your name, address, phone, and request number to Larry once a ticket is in and he will try to expedite it for you.

Q: Will the recycle bins have a number on the back?

A: Not necessarily. You are not supposed to write on the outside of them, but they are supposed to stay at the address to which they're distributed.

Officer Torres, Peninsula Sector 4, BPD Southern District

Crime update from last 28 days for Fed Hill area (including but not limited to Riverside):

- 1 homicide
- 5 larcenies
- A handful of robberies, burglaries, and assaults (missed exact numbers)

This weekend's homicide was an isolated domestic incident that is currently being investigated, so no further comment at this time.

Doug Gansler, Former Attorney General of MD, and running for Governor

<https://dougansler.com/>

- *Paraphrased* -

What distinguishes me for this position is my experience in the field and with the criminal justice system. I see lack of optimism and opportunities in public health, issues with the criminal justice system, and that's what led me to run.

I started community prosecution... I do think there are too many people jailed for drug-related charges. Three other issues in my campaign are environmental protection and climate change, supporting women's reproductive rights, and I started and played Baltimore City Youth Lacrosse every weekend in Carroll Park.

Q: Thoughts on effective transportation for Baltimore City? Canceling the Red Line and replacing it with a bus system does not appear to be effective. How can we improve this and linkage to surrounding counties?

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A: It's important to have a Governor who wants to work with the City, not ignore it because people there didn't vote for me. I think Baltimore City is the region that most needs a Governor right now. Agree the Red Line changes are an issue that needs to be considered in a broader conversation around the City. There are lots of patchwork ideas that need to be considered as part of a cohesive plan. About 1/3 of residents don't have access to a car and need to work, so this is a big issue.

Steve Chu, Owner of Ekiben

Ekiben's mission is to improve Asian cuisine in the US.

(shared slide deck)

The City's third location will be coming to the Bar Licorice spot. Aiming to start construction soon, it's been delayed but anticipate opening in 2022. They expect seating for 8-9 people, mostly bar seating and possibly some table seating outside. Most clientele is to-go/carryout. They will not have alcohol and would rather keep a quiet location and take care of their staff. They have a fun, young, energetic crowd.

Neighbor recommendation: Tell clients not to park in the McDonald's lot or they will get towed.

Rich Badmington asked if there was any objection to the neighborhood, through the RNA board, supporting the project in a letter. There was no objection.

Aaron Campbell, Community Relations Manager, MTA

With support from Darla Feeheley (Community Liaison for Construction, who is boots-on-the-ground who gets updates from folks working and talks directly with MTA) and George Bell)

General Update: Construction is ongoing, concrete being poured now. Underground work is nearing completion. Key Highway will not be shut down again, work there was concluded. Gas lines still need to come down Webster St. Awaiting final permit approval for BGE work. BGE expects 6 weeks of work, probably to start in February. It will be left of the center of the road if heading toward the rail yard, so closer to the MARC yard than the houses on Webster, and will be coming down near the fence. Please contact Aaron for more information.

Q: Could we get a fact sheet for the neighbors/blocks that will be affected?

A: We can have a more focused meeting once we have the timeline and additional details. We can also bring a site plan and some drawings for what is scheduled and present at the January RNA meeting. We're open to working with the neighborhood. We can also do flyers or whatever communication is needed.

Q: Where does the gas line connection come in?

A: It does not come from Fort. Not entirely sure, but believe it's Barney St to Webster St and runs down the fence. From about the construction trailer, turning and running down the fence line. The entire line of work should not run more than the length of one block.

Other Questions/Announcements

Q: What about City leaf pickup?

A: If you have between 6-20 and would like the city to pick them up, you can call 311 Sunday and they will come do a bulk leaf pickup on Monday. The City does prefer paper and clear plastic bags. To ensure pickup you can also leave them near trash cans in the Park.

Recommendation (Linda): People can park behind the USPS office and 2 businesses on Hanover St if parking is short. Those spots are apparently open to the public.

Board member Jackson Fisher offered to pass on info to SBNA since those businesses are within their neighborhood boundaries.

Next meeting

Monday, January 31, 2022, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (back on usual schedule). We plan to stay virtual on Zoom for the time being but hope to resume in person sometime next year.

Respectfully submitted

Rebecca Charlton, Secretary
January 21, 2022