

RNA Community Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2022, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Board Members in attendance: Rich Badmington (President), Becca Charlton (Secretary), Jeff Dewberry, Jackson Fisher, Jen McLaughlin (Vice President), John Pare (Immediate Past President), Rachel Wagner, Joelle Woolston (Treasurer)

Board members absent: Jeff Brown

Number of Zoom Attendees: approx. 40

Next meeting: Monday, June 27, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Note: We plan to stay virtual on Zoom for the time being but hope to resume in person sometime this year.

Board Updates

Rich Badmington, RNA Membership

Rich reminded everyone that official RNA membership is highly recommended and important for making your voice heard as only members may vote in RNA elections and on official business of the Association where RNA may take a position on current events on behalf of our entire community. Dues are very affordable at \$5 per year per person and they can be paid here:

<https://www.riversideneighborhoodassociation.com/about/dues-and-donations/>

You can also make one time donations at that link. Please note that all of our money raised goes right back into the community, and mostly towards the park and park events!

Jeff Dewberry, Public Safety Chair

Jeff welcomed Neighborhood Coordination Officer (NCO) Owens of the BCPD.

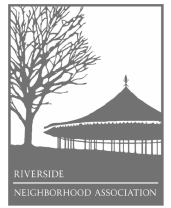
Officer Owens, Peninsula Sector 4, BPD Southern District

NCO Owens reported that there were no crimes to report for the previous 28 days in our neighborhood, though there have been crimes such as robberies in surrounding areas/neighborhoods. He suggested remaining aware of surroundings. He also asked that the community send him or other Southern District officers an email ahead of any upcoming events and the police will try to attend.

Jeff reminded the community to arrange to have packages shipped to safe locations (UPS Store, Amazon locker, etc.) to avoid package theft. Also remember not to leave anything visible in your cars that may make you a potential victim. Even if you're working from home, it's

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recommended to ensure you check your cars regularly, at least every 48 hours if you're in a public space as cars can be towed after 48 hours if not moved.

He also mentioned a public safety walk tomorrow (Tues., May 24), a joint event with Federal Hill and South Baltimore Neighborhood Associations. See Instagram or FB pages for more information. The event starts at 6:30 p.m., at Light and Warren Sts.

<https://www.facebook.com/rnabaltimore/posts/10159640855715256>

Jackson Fisher, Friends of Riverside Park

Construction projects:

- No updates this month. See previous meeting minutes for ongoing and upcoming projects.

Activities

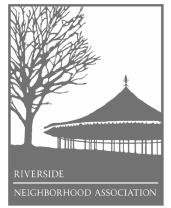
- The community cleanup day for RNA and SBNA went well on May 14. Even with wet weather, volunteers spanned out to clean up streets and planted areas around the park.
- Summer concerts will be back starting in June; taking place on second Sundays of each month June to September. They begin at 5:00 p.m. The first band will be June Star and each month will include a food truck and Miss Twist. See our FB page for more details.
- Joelle Woolston (RNA Treasurer) noted that a \$5,000 donation was just received from Domino Sugar to support our summer concert series. Thank you Domino!!
- St. Ignatius students assisted with park cleanup and gardening on two days in May. They helped mulch and clean up around the park.

Becca Charlton, Riverside Park Pool

- The pool is scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend for the summer. It will be open weekends only until the end of the school year at which point it will open 7 days/week. See more info here: <https://bcrcp.baltimorecity.gov/aquatics>
- There will be 150 slots per session (4 sessions/day), 50 of which will be available to reserve on the City's Rec One system. The other 100 slots are first-come walk-up. You can create an account and make reservations here: <https://secure.rec1.com/MD/baltimore-md/catalog>
- There will be little-to-no programming this year. Baby Country Club will not return this year.
- Furniture from the Splash City effort is expected to make an appearance again this season!

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Rich Badmington, Parking

On behalf of our Parking Committee chair Jeff Brown, Rich mentioned an upcoming proposal to modify the current posted regulation in the new RPP.

At the June meeting, members will be asked to vote to request that the City modify RPP hours to remove the two hour window between 5:00 and 11:00 p.m., (which requires that enforcement check a vehicle twice, more than two hours apart, before they can issue a citation), so that permit parking would begin at 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. (whichever is consistent with SBNA's Area #30).

Specific language of the proposed change along with further explanation and data will be provided in a notice on Facebook and via member email at least two weeks before our June meeting.

Again, residents of the neighborhood who have paid \$5 dues for the current year will be eligible to vote on the proposal.

Rachel Wagner, Upcoming Events

Peninsula Night at Camden Yards will take place on June 8 at 5:00 p.m. vs Chicago Cubs. Five dollars from each ticket will be split among the participating neighborhood associations and local groups such as Federal Hill Main Street.

Information is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/rnabaltimore/posts/10159642403830256>

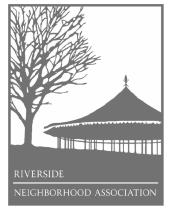
You may purchase tickets at <https://fevo.me/peninsulanight>

Rich Badmington, Community Concerns re: Park Bench Pub

Rich provided an update on the recent activity regarding Park Bench Pub, which has changed hands in recent months. A liquor license transfer application is expected in the near future. Immediate neighbors have submitted several 311 complaints over recent months based on several concerns, including the behavior of patrons, noise inside/outside the bar, parking violations, and driving under the influence. He noted that the proprietors have taken positive steps to reduce loud music from the pub.

Rich and other board members have initiated several conversations with the new manager and previous/current owners to share these concerns and keep a dialogue open. RNA shared all 311 concerns and summarized complaints that were provided directly to RNA. Al Ballinger and other Park Bench principles have expressed their desire to achieve a harmonious presence and continue to operate, although issues persist.

Most recently four RNA board members as well as Del. Clippinger and Councilman Costello met with the new PBP owners/operators to communicate these concerns. Discussion focused on the



complaints and the license transfer process. PBP owners expressed concerns about the merit of certain complaints.

Rich said he believes that the community's voice will have a strong impact on any transfer application and decision by the liquor board. He noted that it is the current position of the RNA board that it cannot support a license transfer if complaints continue as they have. This has been communicated directly to PBP owners.

An application for license transfer has not yet been initiated. Should that happen, the process requires 30-day public notice (including a posting on the building), after which individual or collective testimony and evidence can be presented to the liquor board at a public hearing. Yesterday, the current liquor license holder said the current management agreement, which includes terms for the licensee, ends May 28. Any new agreement will materially impact the process going forward, so the RNA board will await information that may affect next steps.

Rich asked affected residents to continue to share any complaints with the RNA board at rnabaltimore@gmail.com and also submit legitimate complaints to 311, specifying a liquor license or parking complaint, as appropriate.

If an application for transfer to the new manager/owner is initiated, we will provide advance notice to the community and may call for a vote of RNA members to decide the community's position on the license transfer.

Once again, only residents who have paid \$5 annual dues will be eligible to vote.

Rich asked for any further comments, questions, or concerns. None were offered.

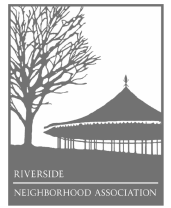
Guest Speakers

Colline Emmanuel, South Baltimore Gateway Partnership

Colline mentioned that the upcoming Hanover Bridge block party for June 4 has been postponed in favor of a public meeting and ice cream social June 6. Please register ahead. This will be an opportunity to share feedback from previous neighborhood meetings and take additional questions.

From Zoom chat:

- Reimagine Middle Branch: Public Meeting & Ice Cream Social: 6/6, 6:00 – 7:30pm
Middle Branch Park
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reimagine-middle-branch-public-meeting-tickets-342469003007?aff=SocialMedia>



- Website: www.reimaginemb.com

She also announced the next community grant cycle opens June 24 for grants ranging from \$2,000-\$50,000. Upcoming workshops and network opportunities including June 9 on youth wellness and sports, which will be virtual. The SBGP Board of Directors application process will open June 24. See SBGP website for more information.

From Zoom chat:

- Colline Emmanuelle cemmanuelle@sbgpartnership.org (443) 920-4554
- Community Grant Summer 2022 opens June 24th. SBGP Board Application opens July 1st. Mission Gathering Roundtable: Youth Sports & Wellness, June 9th, 6:00-8:00pm (virtual) Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mission-gathering-roundtable-youth-wellness-sports-tentative-in-person-tickets-166319121971>

Sam Cogen, candidate for Sheriff of Baltimore City

Sam mentioned there will be two candidates on the ballot, and the primary will decide the election. The other is an incumbent who has been in office 33 years. Sam is SBNA president, and spent 35 years at the Sheriff's Office, with increasing responsibilities. He intends to modernize the Office, focusing on public safety, especially three areas:

1. Do more to humanize the eviction process by supporting children and people made homeless; he would take action against landlords not following code (checking lead paint, etc.).
2. Serve more warrants, including violation of probation warrants, many of which are for violent offenders; and triple the number of officers serving warrants.
3. Increase the out-of-court security role of the Office, providing weekend or after-hours security for community and special events. This would reduce security costs for community organizations, which otherwise must pay for private security.

Question: The US Department of Justice unveiled an effort to combat hate crimes. Is there any plan for anti-hate training for officers?

Answer: Yes. Deputy Sheriffs need more hate crime training and we will implement that.

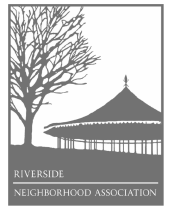
Thiru Vignarajah, candidate for Baltimore City State's Attorney

Thiru shared his extensive legal background, which has made him an expert in crime and Baltimore's public safety challenges including its highest per capita homicide rate. He believes the City can reduce the number murders below 200 within three years. He focused his discussion on three topics:

1. Juvenile justice reform – He wants to see special States Attorneys for juveniles who will focus specifically on these cases; he would institute tracking of juvenile violent repeat

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offenders (JVROs) into adulthood, thereby ending the practice of wiping serious young offenders' records clean when they reach adulthood.

2. Carjackings – He will seek wider use of a jack-track system by which residents could register for GPS tracking of their cars so, if carjacked, authorities can track their vehicles; he would also refer all carjackings to federal prosecutors as they have special jurisdiction on these cases.
3. State's Attorney Mosby's decision to stop prosecuting low-level crime – He would rescind the current blanket policy to not prosecute low-level crimes and return to what he called "common sense" triage of cases and allow officers to take action when crimes—including lesser crimes—take place "in front of them."

He also spoke of the politics of the election and the current status of his endorsements, fundraising, and polling, which, he argued, make him the most viable candidate. You can learn more at <https://www.justiceforbaltimore.com/>.

From Zoom chat:

- To attend a meet and greet or to request lawn signs, email Will Edmonds at will@votethiru.com. Thanks!!

MTA Update (MARC railyard improvements project and ongoing BGE work)

On behalf of MARC, Andrea Neumayer reported that the building construction project remains on schedule and doesn't foresee anything changing expectations.

Lineta Duren of Assedo Consulting, contractor to BGE, said the gas line crew is working on 800 block Fort Ave. this week, and hopefully, up to Fort/Lawrence by the end of the week. Anyone directly affected can expect a door knocker and a postcard with information ahead of the work in front of their home or business. Once lines are installed, crews will move on to paving. She hopes the project will be wrapping up by the June RNA meeting.

Contact Info:

For information on parking or other updates, sign up for text messages by texting BGERIVERSIDE to 844-786-0130.

Lineta can be reached at Linetad@assedollc.com or by phone at 410-618-0102.

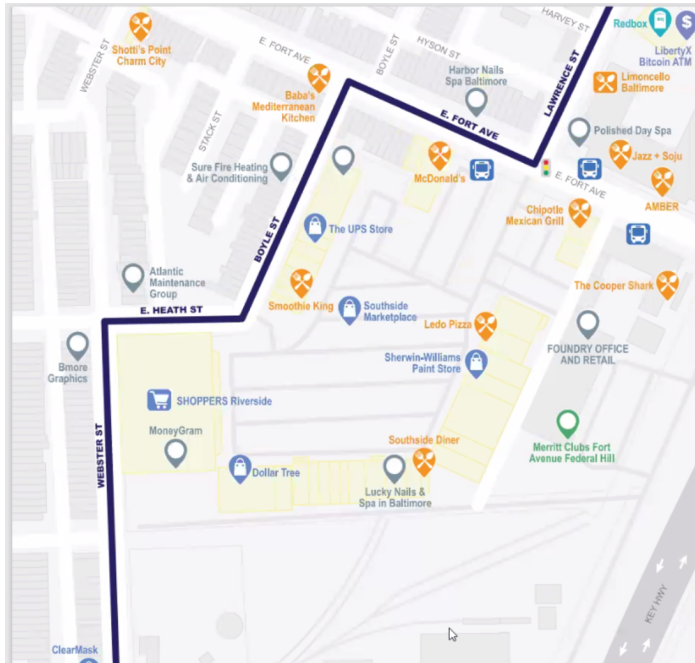
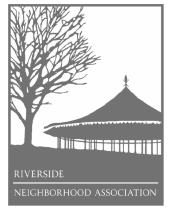
Aaron Campbell - MTA Office of Customer & Community Relations Community Relations Officer
acampbell2@mdot.maryland.gov

Again, a map of the gas line project:

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Pastor A. J. Houseman, Salem Lutheran Church, will speak about June 11 Pride event (*unable to attend*)

Rich Badmington, in conjunction with and on behalf of Pastor Houseman, announced that RNA will be co-sponsoring, with Salem Lutheran, a Pride event on June 11 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Battery in front of the church. Salem Lutheran will organize food, street chalk, and other fun activities for the event in front of their property. There will be a brief program featuring Pastor Houseman, the Lutheran Bishop, and Rich Badmington for RNA.

As context, there have been hate-related flyers distributed over the previous months in our neighborhood and pride flags torn down and burned in the neighborhood and repeatedly at Salem Lutheran. RNA and SL want to make a public statement that Riverside and our entire neighborhood is a welcoming and inclusive community and we do not condone nor will we stand for any hate-related activities, icons, symbols, speech, etc. Please join us to show your support and welcome all to Riverside.

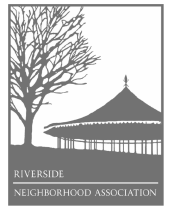
Other Questions/Announcements

Rich Badmington, RNA President

RNA reached out to Giant and was able to confirm they will be coming to the space currently occupied by Shoppers in Southside Marketplace, although no further details were shared at this time.

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Rich reported that he and John Pare had met online with Jasmine Kimball, the Planning Departments new Southern District Community Liaison. Rich expects more data sharing and dialogue with the department going forward relating to various development and land use matters.

Mark Edelson, Candidate for Dist 46

Rich recognized Mark, who greeted the community. He has joined a previous meeting and spoken about his candidacy for the House of Delegates.

RNA Membership and Email Updates

If you do not get the RNA neighborhood emails and want to stay in the know about developments, sign up here:

<https://us7.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=f041e7d880c228be17f7081e8&id=598555dc69>

You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram @rnabaltimore.

For anyone who is not yet an official RNA member, please pay your 2022 dues online. The cost is only \$5 (\$5.46 if you're able to help us cover the processing fee) per person per year. If you've not yet paid your 2022 RNA Membership dues, you can do so here:

<https://www.riversideneighborhoodassociation.com/about/dues-and-donations/>

You can use the same link to make a donation to RNA any time to help with park improvements, events, and more.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebecca Charlton, Secretary
May 23, 2022*