

APPROVED MINUTES

**Bolton Hill Community Association
Board Meeting minutes
January 7, 2025**

Officers		Class of 2025		Class of 2026	
X	Lee Tawney (President)	X	Gary Bianco	A	Chevel Bess
X	David Nyweide (1 st VP)	E	John Butz	X	Barbara Cates
V	Elizabeth Peters (2nd VP)	V	Beth Cole	X	Don Feuerstein
X	Chris Kingsley (Treasurer)	V	Maurice Corbett	X	Barbara Francis
X	Linda Stirling (Secretary)	V	Margaret DeArcangelis	V	Stuart Galonoy
		X	Jacqueline Fiore	V	Florencia Gutierrez
		X	Michael Flanigan	X	Susan Haun
		X	Steve Howard		
		X	Ben Meiselman	X	John Leith-Tetrault
		X	Jim Prost	X	Thecla Meyer
		E	Yulia Suslova	V	Oge Okoli
		X	John Timson	X	Jason Perrotti
		V	Sara Warren (MICA)	E	Marcus Pratt
		A	Marci Yankelov	V	Lisa Savage
				V	Jeff Thompson

X= present; E=excused; A=absent; V=virtual attendance

President Lee Tawney called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. Minutes from the December board meeting were approved.

Special Reports

City Councilman Zac Blanchard asked that residents forward to his office any service request numbers resulting from 311 calls so that they can monitor them. He said that he would soon propose the creation of an independent redistricting commission for the city council districts to replace the current method whereby the mayor redistricts the city.

President's Report

President Tawney reported that:

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- Copies of the proposed revisions to the BHCA bylaws will be distributed within the next couple of weeks. There will be a special board meeting soon thereafter for the BHCA board to approve the revisions. Once board approval is obtained, the revised bylaws will be voted on at the February BHCA meeting by the BHCA membership.
- BHCA's database is still being worked on.
- The City's proposal to try electronic parking passes was discussed in a neighborhood meeting in December but there was no consensus regarding the proposal at that meeting. Consequently, the committee is preparing a survey of Bolton Hill residents to determine whether we want to agree to testing electronic parking permits.
- BHCA has launched a virtual reading room on the BHCA website, which contains information on the history of the neighborhood.

Committee Reports

Finance: Chris Kingsley reported the old Mount Royal Improvement Association legal entity has finally been dissolved. February begins BHCA's budget season so members should reach out to Chris if they have ideas regarding events or projects that might affect the budget for next year.

Safety and Security Committee: Jim Prost reported for the Safety and Security committee that crime in Bolton Hill is down this year but that arrests in Baltimore have increased. The committee's survey of lighting and cameras in the neighborhood is completed and the committee will now evaluate lighting conditions in Bolton Hill. If street lights are out, residents should call 311 to report them.

Zoning and Land Use: David Nyweide reported that Midtown is in the process of transferring control of the Unity@Park Avenue site from Baltimore's Department of Housing and Community Development to Baltimore Green Space. Hopefully the lot renovation will get underway sometime in the summer. Lee Tawney reported that Pedestal Gardens has been sold to private owners who plan to keep the property as it is. An engineering study of the property at State Center has been proposed.

Membership: David Nyweide reported that BHCA ended 2024 with 311 total member households. The survey of members conducted last month found that the top benefits of BHCA membership were advocacy for Bolton Hill, events and the website and bulletin. There were also a few recommendations from the survey, including that we include food trucks at Arts in the Parks concerts, that BHCA highlight renovations occurring in the neighborhood and that BHCA let residents know who are members of the board.

With regard to the proposal last month that BHCA do away with free membership for first year members, David reported that last year we had 71 new members but only 16 renewed their

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membership. After discussion from those attending, the board voted against the proposal to eliminate free first year membership. The vote was: *for* eliminating free membership 6, *against* 11.

Transportation: Sam Getchell asked that members email him at transportation@boltonhillmd.org regarding any safety issues in the neighborhood. He is starting a database to track incidents in Bolton Hill. He also proposed that there be a donation tab on the website where people can donate directly to the Transportation Committee for certain items, such as a device that tracks cars going through particular intersections. These devices track both the number of vehicles passing through an intersection and their speed.

Neglected and Mismanaged Properties: Lee Tawney reported that one house previously on the neglected properties list has now been purchased and is being renovated.

Grey Panthers: Bill Hamilton said that the Grey Panthers plan to honor Bolton Hill residents who have lived in the neighborhood 50 years or more. Please let Bill know if you know of any such long time residents. The event is currently planned for late February or early March.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Linda Stirling
BHCA Secretary