

APPROVED MINUTES

**Bolton Hill Community Association
Board Meeting minutes
February 4, 2025**

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

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

President Lee Tawney called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m. Minutes from the January board meeting were approved.

Special Reports

Cecelia McCormick, president of MICA, discussed MICA's current activities. MICA's website has a list of current and upcoming exhibits to which Bolton Hill residents are always invited. MICA is interested in becoming involved in BHCA's Arts in the Parks events and is interested in co-hosting with BHCA a concert in the Mount Royal station amphitheatre. She suggested that MICA students would be interested in helping with neighborhood cleanup days and is interested in pursuing the hosting of MICA students by Bolton Hill neighbors during the holidays next year. Based on the inquiries it has received so far, MICA expects an increase in enrollment next fall. MICA has a new director of campus safety, Keith Harrison, is developing a new

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strategic plan, has begun planning an exhibit of artists from Bolton Hill, and has begun planning for its 200th anniversary celebration.

James Torrence asked that residents report broken water mains to 311 and his office as soon as possible. With the winter's cold weather, it is important to get them fixed quickly. He said that his office is requesting speed bumps for Lafayette and Laurens Streets. He is working on improving the security of the Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School building, as people have been trying to live there. He also suggested that residents let him know if sidewalk bricks are coming loose. He said that the mayor's budget this year projects a shortfall so every agency is currently facing cuts of 3 percent. With regard to the proposed BGE rate hikes, Councilman Torrence recommended that residents tell their council member and the council president that the rate hikes are a problem. The Maryland House of Delegates has a pending bill to stop the BGE rate hikes; Councilman Torrence suggested that residents should email delegate Elizabeth Embry to convey their support for the bill.

President's Report

President Tawney reported that:

- The proposed revisions to the BHCA bylaws are completed and will be voted on by the BHCA board. If the board approves them, they will then be voted on by BHCA members.
- BHCA has a new database, and membership data is now being entered into it.
- BHCA has declined the City's proposal that it test a pilot program for electronic parking passes. BHCA may revisit the issue in a year or more.
- BHCA is developing a music series to be held at Corpus Christi Church. Two events have been scheduled for March and April.
- The Green Streets Arts Festival was held in May last year but will be moved to this fall to avoid competing with Artscape.
- The programs for Festival on the Hill, scheduled for October 4, are mostly set. So are the programs for Arts in the Parks.

Committee Reports

Finance: John Timson reported that BHCA is in good shape financially with a strong cash position. The Finance committee is working on next year's budget and will be holding several meetings to discuss needs for the budget. Members should reach out to Chris Kingsley if they have ideas regarding events or projects that might affect the budget for next year.

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Safety and Security Committee: Jim Prost reported that crime in Bolton Hill is down this year, primarily because auto thefts and carjackings have decreased significantly. The police have identified crime hot spots around the city; one of them is McMechen Street near the shopping center but a lot of this crime consists of shoplifting from Save A Lot and Walgreens. Having completed a lighting survey of the neighborhood, the committee is now working with a consultant pro bono to evaluate how effective Bolton Hill's lighting is.

Transportation: Sam Getchell reported that BHCA now has several devices for monitoring traffic, and they will be deployed in the next two to four weeks. They track both the number of vehicles passing through an intersection and their speed. Sam asked to email him at transportation@boltonhillmd.org if someone wants these devices in any certain place or regarding any other traffic safety issues in the neighborhood.

Greening: Doug Kelso reported that the committee organized a meeting with the City's forestry department. He recommended two websites with information regarding the care of trees: www.bcrp.Baltimorecity.gov/forestry and www.treebaltimore.org. There will be a series of meetings this spring with park stewards.

Communications: Bill Hamilton said the January Bolton Hill Bulletin had an article on Tilted Row and the effect of the pandemic on restaurants. Tilted Row is hosting a happy hour for BHCA board members on Wednesday, February 19 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Gray Panthers: Bill Hamilton said that the Gray Panthers will honor Bolton Hill residents who have lived in the neighborhood 50 years or more. So far, they have identified almost 20 people. The event is tentatively scheduled for February 28. More information will be coming.

Announcements

Barbara Francis and Barbara Cates announced that Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church is organizing an information session on February 15 regarding how to help immigrants in the community.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Linda Stirling
BHCA Secretary