

APPROVED MINUTES

Bolton Hill Community Association Board Meeting minutes March 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)	X	John Butz	X	Barbara Cates
X	Elizabeth Peters (2nd VP)	A	Beth Cole	X	Don Feuerstein
E	Chris Kingsley (Treasurer)	E	Maurice Corbett	X	Barbara Francis
X	Linda Stirling (Secretary)	V	Margaret DeArcangelis	E	Stuart Galonoy
		X	Jacqueline Fiore	A	Florencia Gutierrez
		X	Michael Flanigan	X	Susan Haun
		X	Steve Howard	X	John Leith-Tetrault
		X	Ben Meiselman	V	Thecla Meyer
		X	Jim Prost	X	Oge Okoli
		A	Yulia Suslova	X	Jason Perrotti
		X	John Timson	X	Marcus Pratt
		X	Sara Warren (MICA)	A	Lisa Savage
		X	Marci Yankelov	X	Jeff Thompson

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

President Lee Tawney called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Special Reports

Bill Henry, Comptroller of Baltimore City, spoke about his role in Baltimore City government. The City's finances are controlled by the mayor, but the comptroller acts as the watchdog of the City and performs audits of the City's agencies to identify problems and areas that can be improved. Each year the comptroller audits eight City agencies and the following year it audits the remaining eight. The comptroller also audits Port Covington and the Pratt Library and does a consolidated audit of the City.

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He stated that eighteen months ago the City's finance department implemented a 10-year plan for the City. Part of that plan included seeking more revenue from the seventeen "Meds to Eds" (nonprofits such as hospitals and universities in the city). These nonprofits currently pay no property tax but pay a voluntary fee in its stead. The amount of these fees is much less than the cost of the services they receive from the city according to Henry. Baltimore is looking at other cities' best practices for receiving revenue from the nonprofits but any new proposal is likely to be a short-term fix since many of these entities have had their finances disrupted with the changes in federal funding policies.

James Torrence reported that an autopay system for paying one's property taxes is under development. The City has hired additional parking enforcement staff but more still need to be hired. If residents notice that street sweeping has not occurred on its scheduled day, he asks that they call their councilperson to report it.

Erik Souza and Kimberly Canale spoke on behalf of the Midtown Community Benefits District, which needs to be reauthorized. Ballots to property owners within the district were mailed on March 6; they must be received by March 27. At least 58% of the ballots must approve the reauthorization.

Special Bylaws Membership Meeting

David Nyweide presented to the membership proposed revisions to BHCA's bylaws. There are three major changes: (1) reducing the number of directors from 30 to 20; (2) adding to the board ex officio non-voting members made up of representatives from neighboring community associations; and (3) formally adding the architectural review committee to BHCA's bylaws. Other changes to the bylaws include allowing more than one vote per household, requiring directors and officers to be present at a meeting for their vote to count, requiring BHCA to obtain directors and officers insurance, requiring two signatures for any check in an amount greater than \$1,000, and adding procedures for the dissolution of BHCA. The revisions to the bylaws were put to a vote of BHCA members and were unanimously approved.

Board Meeting

Minutes from the February board meeting were approved.

Committee Reports

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Safety and Security Committee: Jim Prost reported that January crime in Bolton Hill has been the same for the past three years. The committee is organizing a meeting with Midtown, MICA and police representatives.

Transportation: Sam Getchell reported that a Telraam monitoring unit has been installed on Laurens Street to track the number of vehicles passing by and their speed. The committee is working on getting one near the Bolton Hill Nursery School; MICA has agreed to install another unit as well. The committee has established a Near Miss database so please report any incidents to Sam at transportation@boltonhillmd.org. The committee is working on installing a mirror at the corner of Jenkins Alley and McMechen to improve safety there. It is also considering the placement of planters at the corner of Laurens Street and Park Avenue.

Greening: Doug Kelso reported that from 2-4 p.m. on March 15 at Unity Hall, BHCA and the Bolton Hill Garden Club will host a meeting of park stewards.

Communications: Bill Hamilton said that 20 people attended the happy hour for BHCA at Tilted Row.

Gray Panthers: Last month the Gray Panthers honored 25 Bolton Hill residents who have lived in the neighborhood 50 years or more.

Nominating: Steve Howard said that the nominating committee seeks nominees for board members. The committee is seeking to create a diverse board.

Vice President David Nyweide made a motion for BHCA to support the reauthorization of the Midtown Community Benefits District. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Announcements

Lisa Johnson on behalf of the Bolton Hill Garden Club announced several upcoming garden club events. On March 11, there will be a lecture on how to identify edible mushrooms. On Saturday, April 5, the garden club is hosting a plant swap, seed exchange and repotting clinic in Rutter's Mill Park. The annual spring plant sale takes place on April 19 in Fitzgerald Park along with a garden shed sale and silent auction.

Liz Miller announced that she was seeking to establish community refrigerators throughout the city and thought that Eutaw Place would be a good location for one.

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Chevel Bess is managing BHCA's Instagram account and asked that if anyone had interesting information and photos to post that they [email him](#).

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Linda Stirling
BHCA Secretary