

APPROVED MINUTES

Bolton Hill Community Association Board Meeting minutes April 1, 2025

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

X= present; E=excused; A=absent

President Lee Tawney called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Minutes from the March 2025 board meeting were approved.

Special Reports

Councilmember Torrence reported that the City is not being reimbursed by the federal government, as previously promised, for \$400 million in stimulus funds that have already been spent in connection with the COVID pandemic. The state is considering litigation to try to get the promised reimbursement. He said that the City has had the lowest number of homicides in the first three months of this year since 1972. Baltimore

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is no longer one of the 50 deadliest cities in the United States. The City has a new data system to record permits; glitches within the system are being remedied.

President's Report

President Tawney reported that:

- The next Music at Corpus Christi Concert will be on April 9.
- The University of Baltimore will celebrate its 100th anniversary on April 12. Bolton Hill residents are invited to the celebration.
- The May BHCA annual meeting will take place in Farnham Hall.
- The kiosk billboards around Bolton Hill have been repaired by MICA.
- The Confederate plinth on Mount Royal Avenue is in the process of being removed.
- BHCA has established a block captain program in the neighborhood, and most blocks are already covered by captains.

Committee Reports:

Nominating: Steve Howard reported that the BHCA board is transitioning from a 30 person board down to 20 persons. As part of that transition, the board next year will contain 24 members. He announced the slate of nominees to be voted on at the May annual BHCA meeting. The nominees are:

Officers:

President	Lee Tawney
First Vice President	David Nyweide
Second Vice President	Susan Haun
Treasurer	Chris Kingsley
Secretary	Jason Perrotti

Class of 2027 Board Members:

John Butz
Beth Cole
Margaret DeArcangelis
Jacqueline Fiore
Michael Flanigan
Steve Howard
Rose McKinley
Elizabeth Peters
Jim Prost
John Timson
Sara Warren
Marci Yankelov

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Class of 2026 Board Members:

Chevel Bess
Barbara Cates
Don Feuerstein
Barbara Francis
Stuart Galonoy
Floencia Gutierrez
John Leith-Tetrault
Thecla Meyer
Oge Okoli
Marcus Pratt
Lisa Savage Phillips
Jeff Thompson

Finance Committee: Chris Kingsley reported that BHCA's finances are in good shape. He expects a quieter year starting next fiscal year, as there are not any large projects expected other than the installation of the six Mazaroff sculptures in parks. BHCA's core expenses are covered by membership fees and advertising. The motion to adopt the 2025-26 budget proposed by the Finance Committee was passed.

Safety and Security Committee: Jim Prost reported that crime in Bolton Hill in February is comparable to February over the past two years. Larcenies are up somewhat, primarily from shoplifting at the Walgreens on McMechen Street. The Safety Committee is organizing a meeting with representatives from the Western District of the Baltimore police, MICA's security team and Midtown Community Benefits District to discuss how to improve security coordination among the three groups. The committee is planning to meet with BGE and the City to discuss adherence to the City's criteria for lighting in Baltimore residential neighborhoods.

Membership: The committee is working on membership solicitations and is in the process of scheduling the new members happy hour.

Transportation: Sam Getchell reported that both traffic tracking devices have been installed in the neighborhood and are providing good data. So far, they have shown that many people do not stop at the intersection of Park Avenue and Laurens Street. The committee has placed QR codes at the intersection, which people may use to provide suggestions for calming processes. Ideas can also be emailed to transportation@boltonhillmd.org. Councilmember Blanchard's office has asked to be copied on any communications with the City about traffic in the neighborhood to assist in traffic calming efforts.

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Communications: Bill Hamilton is looking for someone to interview and write a story about the owners of Llama Cafe for the Bolton Hill Bulletin.

Gray Panthers Committee: The Gray Panthers are sponsoring a salon on April 23 to hear Scott Shane, author of Flee North, speak about Thomas Smallwood, a freed slave from Maryland who helped 150 enslaved people escape. The discussion will be on April 23 at 6 p.m. at the Linden Green Apartments Community Center.

Announcements:

Chris Mirkovich, president of the Bolton Hill Garden Club, announced that the garden club has awarded \$11,000 in grants to Bolton Hill and Madison Park for greening efforts in these neighborhoods. The garden club is sponsoring a plant and seed swap on April 5 in Rutter's Mill Park, a spring plant and shed sale on April 19 and a spring garden walk on June 7. New officers for the garden club have been nominated; the vote on the nominations will take place at the garden club's May meeting.

Toby Ditz described the City's current approach to taxing 14 nonprofit medical and educational entities, "Eds and Meds." The City is renegotiating a pilot agreement with these groups, as they currently pay about \$6 million dollars to the city in lieu of property taxes yet consume about \$47 million in services. The goal is to alleviate the tax burden faced by individual property owners who pay a disproportionate amount when compared to the Eds and Meds. A public hearing on the task force bill is expected soon but not yet scheduled. Toby can supply more information on this issue.

The revived Bolton Hill Community Yard Sale is scheduled for May 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Park Avenue medians. People must register to obtain a spot to sell; registration costs \$40.

A representative from the Midtown Community Benefits District reminded residents to contact 311 if trash is not being properly handled at neighborhood properties. Midtown is organizing a Bolton Hill spring planting day on May 3.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Linda Stirling
BHCA Secretary