

APPROVED MINUTES

**Bolton Hill Community Association
Board Meeting minutes
March 3, 2026**

Officers		Class of 2026		Class of 2027	
X	Lee Tawney (President)	Z	Chevel Bess	X	John Butz
X	David Nyweide (1 st VP)	X	Barbara Cates	Z	Beth Cole
X	Susan Haun (2nd VP)	X	Don Feuerstein	A	Margaret De Arcangelis
X	Chris Kingsley (Treasurer)	X	Barbara Francis	X	Jacqueline Fiore
X	Jason Perrotti (Secretary)	A	Stuart Galonoy	X	Michael Flanigan
		A	Florencia Gutierrez	X	Steve Howard
		A	John Leith-Tetrault	Z	Rose McKinley
		X	Thecla Meyer	E	Elizabeth Peters
		X	Oge Okoli	X	Jim Prost
		X	Marcus Pratt	A	Sara Warren (MICA)
		A	Lisa Savage	A	Marci Yankelov
		X	Jeff Thompson		

X= present; E=excused; A=absent; Z=zoom

President Lee Tawney called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Presentations

Baltimore Area Council of Scouting America

Marianna Ross provided an update on local Scouting:

- The organization is looking to bring more Scout units, especially Cub Scout units, to the community.
- Cub Scouts (K-5) is now open to both girls and boys.
- There are approximately 2,000 elementary-aged children in the ZIP code, and the council aims to engage 3% of them in local units.

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- Ross is seeking community organizations to help support new units, and she distributed brochures with contact information.

Officer Austin from the Western District

- He offered wheel locks to community members who would like them in response to auto thefts.

Kappa Alpha Psi

- Devron Dickens from the fraternity spoke about the fraternity's long history in the neighborhood and their community-centered space on the 1300 block of Eutaw, which is dedicated to uplifting youth and strengthening families.
- He shared plans to improve the open space adjacent to their building as an "accessory use" designed to harmonize with the Bolton Hill historic district. The fraternity is aware of greening grant opportunities.

President's Report

Lee Tawney reported:

- **Candidate Forums:** Joint candidate forums for upcoming congressional, state legislature, and school board elections are being planned for May in coordination with Reservoir Hill, Madison Park, and the No Boundaries Coalition.
- **Nominating Committee:** Jeff Thompson reported that the committee has established the list of returning board members for the upcoming classes. They will meet later this month to finalize a slate of new candidates.
- **Eutaw Marshburn Site:** A meeting is scheduled for Friday to discuss the preservation and potential relocation of artwork on the former school building, including a bronze soldier sculpture and doors by artist Megan Lewitt. Madison Park resident Antoinette Peele with the Municipal Arts Society is also advising on the project.
- **State Center:** Lee Tawney will provide testimony on Senate Bill 818 (SB 818), introduced by Senator Hayes, which aims to confirm the next steps for State Center and empower the advisory committee.
- **Parking Permits:** Don Feuerstein and Susan Haun have stepped up to manage parking permit distribution at a community permit pick-up on March 21st at Memorial Episcopal Church.

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- **Greening Briefing:** The Greening Committee and Bolton Hill Garden Club are having their annual greening briefing this Saturday at Unity Hall.
- **Music at Corpus Christi:** The first concert was successful, and the next concert is on March 18 and will feature Jim Harp.
- **Refreshments and Annual Meeting:** A volunteer is needed to provide refreshments for next month's meeting, and help will be needed for the upcoming annual meeting.

Reports

Finance

Chris Kingsley reported that:

- A budget proposal for the next fiscal year will be provided at the April meeting.

Safety/Security

Jim Prost reported that:

- **Bolton Hill Violent Crime:** In Bolton Hill, except for 7 aggravated assaults in January 2026 among people who knew each other, there were only 3 violent crimes in 2025 and 1 violent crime in 2026.
- **Property Crime:** The number of property crimes in 2026 versus 2025 was down 61% from 28 incidents to 11 (including no burglaries in 2026 versus 7 in 2025).
- **Western Police District Crime Data:** In the Western Police District, violent crime was up 16% from 2025 to 2026, with homicides unfortunately increasing from 1 to 5. However, property crime decreased by 23%.
- **Dusk-to-Dawn Light Bulbs:** The committee continues to distribute free dusk-to-dawn light bulbs at monthly BHCA and committee meetings.
- **Solar-Powered Motion Detection Fixtures:** Discussion has been initiated regarding the distribution of free solar-powered motion detection fixtures to augment alley lighting throughout the neighborhood.

Zoning / Land Use Committee

Lee reported that:

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- **City Council Bill 25-0066:** This bill concerning residential unit caps was heard in City Council, and the mayor's office introduced amendments. However, the City Council was not aware of these amendments, so there seems to be some confusion. At this time, the bill has not yet been scheduled for further committee hearings.
- **Streets Grocery Store:** A zoning modification hearing is pending for a wine license for the new Streets grocery store, and it has received formal support from the Reservoir Hill community.

Membership

Susan Haun reported that:

- **Email Outreach:** The committee recently completed the first stage of their recruitment campaign, which involved sending out approximately 800 emails to various distribution lists. While Susan noted that they did not receive a high volume of responses, they did get some, which she viewed as a positive start.
- **Next Phase:** The committee plans to move into a second stage of outreach that focuses on one-on-one personal engagement rather than bulk digital communication.
- **Philosophy of Membership:** Susan emphasized that the primary goal of increasing membership is to build community. She noted that while there is a small fee to join, the real value is in people officially becoming "a part of our community."

Neglected & Mismanaged Properties

Jeff Thompson reported that:

- **Shift in Strategy:** The committee is shifting its focus toward being more proactive regarding "nuisance" issues, such as poorly maintained trash bins and alley debris, rather than focusing exclusively on vacant or distressed properties.
- **Direct Landlord Engagement:** Jeff highlighted a recent success where a local property management company was contacted about a trash-filled alley; the owner responded within 24 hours to clean the area and resolve the issue.
- **City Coordination:** A meeting with Baltimore City's Department of Housing and Community Development code enforcement is scheduled for March 12.

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Transportation Committee

Jim Prost reported that:

- **Capital Budget Funding:** The capital budget has allocated funding for the coming years for more permanent traffic calming solutions to replace temporary ones.

Greening Committee

Doug Kelso reported that:

- **Bolton Hill Greening Briefing:** The fourth annual Bolton Hill Greening Briefing will take place this Saturday from 2-4 pm at Unity Hall. It is open to park stewards as well as anyone interested in the green spaces in the neighborhood.

Communications Committee

Bill Hamilton reported that:

- The committee is being revitalized and is adding new people. The committee will be making an effort to reinforce BHCA's connection with non-members and former members.

Announcements

Midtown Community Benefits District

Rayco Turner reported that:

- **Pruning and Planting:** Midtown wrapped up a pruning event in Bolton Hill last Saturday and will help with a tree planting event in Bolton Hill on May 2.
- **Town Hall:** Midtown will be going over its 2027 budget at an upcoming town hall on April 15.
- **Service Portal:** Rayco provided a refresher on how to use Midtown's service portal.
- **Housing Code Enforcement Supervisor:** Rayco introduced housing code enforcement supervisor Alexander Bull, who discussed the role that he and his department have in keeping housing safe throughout Baltimore.

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General Discussion

- Bruce Brown from the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office provided an update on the office's recent activities.
- The First Friday Fountains event is starting up again at 5-7 pm at 1600 Park Ave median.
- The Sisson Street Recycling Drop-off Center
 - The task force voted against moving to Falls Rd, but it is still unclear where it could be moved.
 - Comments are being taken regarding the possible closure of the Sisson Street recycling and drop-off center. Deadline for comments has been extended until tomorrow at 5 pm.; email sissonstreet@baltimorecity.gov to leave comments.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Jason Perrotti

BHCA Secretary