

Abel Improvement Association
Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, July 14, 2007
Meeting Minutes

Present: Robin Truiett-Theodorson, Kathleen Hruska, Paul Burk, Miruna Patrascanu, Mark Theodorson, Linda Forlifer, Jim Anthony, Simone Thompson

1. Community Space.

a. Films

- (1) Fees are required to meet licensing requirements. Rates run from \$75 - 250. Some films will be out-of-range b/c of the higher fees involved (e.g., anything Disney).
- (2) Movies set to start 7/27. Tentative schedule is drafted and is in review by film committee.

b. Kiosk

- (1) Plan has been supported by a grant from the Baltimore Community Foundation. Work must be completed prior to filing of report, which is due October 24. Morgan will try to have it installed before the Street Fair.
- (2) Morgan drafted a kiosk design a kiosk after researching prices of pre-fabricated versions, which he found cost several thousand dollars. Design draft was reviewed and approved unanimously.
- (3) Kathleen has the cancelled check, receipt, and the letter to Mike Klima announcing the award. She will give it to Mike.

c. Benches

- (1) Will be installed through a grant from Parks and People.
- (2) Depending on swing set issue, addressed below, installation may be delayed by replacement of the swingset. The grant agency seemed to understand the situation and said that if the money and building can not happen this year, then it can be done next year.

d. Swingset

- (1) Morgan and Mike were contacted by Mary Porter at the Department of Parks and Rec who asked to discuss the current swingset.
- (2) Past understanding - the Department had stated that if a new swingset were installed, it would have to meet code, meaning a larger area of clearance, a new structure, and other changes. The other option was to keep the current swingset, but not make any alterations. At a community meeting held, those attending decided to keep the current structure.
- (3) New demands - Mary Porter, in recent communication, explained that the current structure is no longer an option as it is not up to code. The Department will remove the existing structure, community's only decision is whether to replace it.
- (4) The EC agreed that, because this directly contradicts past agreements with the Parks Department, that Ms. Porter should be invited to a community meeting to present this new situation, which is: The city will pay for the new swing set but it will be much

bigger. It will require a 6' clearance on each side, putting it further into the green space. Set will either be two swings or four swings, as no three-swing set is available. In addition, 10' from the garages in to the green space is not available for building as it is the leeway for the garages, referred to as a "paper alley".

- (5) Draft plan reviewed, addresses paper alley issue and will require one tree to be removed. Suggests that work will be started and completed in November.
- (6) Morgan got new contract to sign as Open Space Manager. It involves very little about what the city is supposed to do, but a great deal about what AIA is required to do.

e. Wedding

- (1) A couple that lives on Guilford Avenue have requested permission to hold their wedding ceremony in the Open Space on Saturday, October 27
- (2) Date may conflict with swingset project. Will have to discuss dates with the city.
- (3) Expectations? What is process for officially using the green space? It is public ground, so open for use. But if they want to have a structure, rental equipment, then information should be provided and reviewed by committee. AIA fee should be paid. Could ask for a donation to AIA. If plans require open space maintenance, may request cost offset.

2. Trolley Car Meeting.

- a. No one present attended and there was no representative from Abel. Steve is interested and committee supports his involvement.
- b. Committee members ask - Why this, versus the #3 bus? Mark's take is that a trolley is seen as a tourist-friendly way to get people to the BMA from the Inner Harbor. Members ask, "Why have a trolley instead of a shuttle?"
- c. Patrick is also aware of issues. Mark will follow-up.

3. Crime and Safety Concerns.

- a. Police provided a report at the last CVBD meeting.
- b. Incidents reviewed: There have been multiple shootings in the area, including on 27th Street. Some incidents involved prostitutes while the shooting of taxi cab driver on 28th street involved road rage incident. Another road rage incident occurred in Waverly. Lastly, an off-campus abduction attempt of a JHU grad student, who was walking in the morning near Wyman Park when a man tried to pull her into his SUV. Nearby others intervened and no abduction happened. No one at this meeting knew any additional details of incident, such as whether attempted abductor knew the woman.
- b. July 19 from 7 - 9 pm there is a Safety Seminar sponsored by Hopkins and CVCBD to discuss Citizen's Patrol, CrimeWatch, and other efforts. Mark will attend.
- c. Mark expressed the many community needs, including safety, might be served by better inter-neighborhood communication. He will talk to Bonnie, as liaison to Groups on Greenmount. Greater Homewood had involved a Presidents forum for the local community association presidents and perhaps this should be revisited.

4. Greenmount Avenue Parade.

- a. Saturday, August 4

- b. Bonnie needs help organizing people. Those interested should contact Bonnie.
5. Date for next Quarterly Meeting.
 - a. Committee agreed that the meeting should be during the week, allowing some variance from typical Saturday morning meetings. Will present three possible nights to Department of Parks and Rec to ensure availability of staff attendance.
 - b. Paul will call her to set date.
 - c. Committee could provide snacks.
 6. At-Large Member.
 - a. Mary Washington had been an at-large member but recently moved.
 - b. Possibilities for replacement listed: Todd Whaley, lives next door to Mark and Robin. Phil Zook. Matt and Melissa Kirby. Claudia Gordon. Bill and Kate. Members will encourage these people to come to the August meeting.
 7. Up-date on Barclay School Playground
 - a. Paul has not heard anything in a few weeks. The plan is to remove the asphalt, treat the soil, and put in grass seed.
 - b. Schedule. Project has been put out to bid by the Port Administration. Work must be complete by August 23. Project should take three weeks, start to finish.
 - c. Streuver Brothers, sponsor of the James Rouse Community Service day on September 15, has agreed to adopt the school as a volunteer site.. Will do this even though they were involved there last year and put in planting garden. Would be a month after grass planted. This could be opportunity to plant shrubs, trees, and other landscaping features that the Port Administration would not pay for. Community members should also be involved.
 8. Changing Directions Summer Camp.
 - a. The camp was not allowed to advertise at Barclay School, resulting in low registration. Thus the camp will not be held this year, though the hope it to launch it next summer.
 - b. Group will continue to do mentoring and other youth-oriented projects and activities. Now in building across from Normals.
 9. Street-Level Lighting for 31st and 32nd Streets.
 - a. The below-ground installation of wiring and other necessities is completed on both streets. It appears that lighting bases are beginning to be installed.
 - b. Paul will talk to Beth to see if she has more information about possible completion date.
 10. Street Fair.
 - a. Set for 9/23 11 - 4.
 - b. Site plan reviewed in order for permit request to be submitted. Agreed to a T design, encompassing the 3100 block of Abel as the 'vertical' and the two blocks adjacent on 32nd street as the 'horizontal'. Two blocks used on Abel last year was excessive. Last year didn't need the area from the alley to Barclay, but will ask for it again. Can then choose where to put the road block.

- c. Applications completed and will be filed. \$73 expense for permit.
- d. No one showed at last planning meeting. Starting at this date is of concern.
- e. Agreed to again have a Moonbounce as it was so popular last year.
- f. Group agreed that pop-up tents would be useful, especially in case of rain. Have some tents, previously purchased, but they are difficult to set up.
- g. Having cars move in advance will be critical. Discussed ideas for getting out notice,
 - (1) If Annie Applegarth walked street with police presence, the police can search MVA records to identify owner, who could be asked to move vehicle, rather than towing.
 - (2) Last year permit did not arrive until Friday so could not put up official no-parking signs in advance. If this happens this year, could put up community-made signs.
 - (3) Place notice on community list-serve.
- h. Publicity/Advertising - Signs in yards. Hand out leaflets at market the Saturday before.
- i. Subcommittee Membership identified.
 - (1) Publicity. Mark, Paul, Miruna, Jim. Last year WYPR sponsored and provided publicity. Committee will follow-up.
 - (2) Set-up/Clean-up: Steve will help the morning of, but can not meet in advance. Agreed that an advance meeting is not necessary for this committee.
 - (3) Vendors. Committee agreed to approach those vendors present at CV Festival, Flower Mart, and last year's Street Fair. Paul will coordinate to ensure that communication is clear. Simone offered assistance with contacting vendors, if needed.
 - (4) Music. May choose to do a Craigslist posting. Mark has identified three performers Mike for Jazz, Payola (rock/pop) John Hardy boys (blues), Steve's accapella. Will look for a dance group, hip/hop. Perhaps coordinate a community jam session? Need four or five bands.

Please note: Simone Thompson, Recording Secretary, was not able to stay for the remainder of the meeting. Robin Truiett-Theodorson can provide notes for these to be more complete.