



**Owen Brown Village Board Meeting
December 5, 2023
Owen Brown Community Association
6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045**

Approved: 1/09/2024

The Board of Directors of the Owen Brown Community Association, Inc. conducted its regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at the Owen Brown Community Center.

Present: Michael Golibersuch, Chair, Brad Butler, Vice-chair, Bob Golibersuch, Linda Ortiz-Byrd, Andrew Stack, CA Representative and OBCA Secretary/Manager, Craig Barton

Not Present: Mae Beale

1. Call to Order

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Approval of agenda

Motion by Brad to approve the amended agenda by adding OB CARES to the discussion section. Bob seconded. All in favor.

3. Approval of minutes

The minutes were approved by consent.

4. Invited Guest

Nick Mooneyhan, Bob Linz, and Paul Walsky from HoCo Rec and Parks came to share the new plans for the East Columbia Library Park and to hear the Board's concerns. Mr. Mooneyhan explained that the new design plan has added pickleball courts and a separate basketball court that was not a part of the 2014 plan. The main feature of converting the existing multipurpose fields into two youth size baseball fields with sports lighting and artificial grass is still present in the revision. The Board shared their concerns over parking, the use of artificial grass, lighting, and noise concerns for the residents nearby.

Sgt. Hammond, HC Police, came in response to the Boards letter regarding pedestrian safety along Cradlerock Way. Sgt. Hammond shared the results from various traffic monitoring that has occurred in the past year on Cradlerock and also informed the Board of the department's recent enforcement measures to increase pedestrian safety and awareness.

Kris Jagarapu, Chief of Highways, came to discuss the county's abilities and efforts to improve pedestrian safety on both Cradlerock and Homespun. Mr. Jagarapu stated that a study was recently performed for the two streets, which included a number of recommendations for improved safety. He stated that some of the recommendations could be implemented immediately, but the majority would take additional funding.

Councilwoman Christiana Rigby was also in attendance, and thanked the county

staff for coming, and encouraged residents to testify at an upcoming county budget hearing.

5. Resident Speak Out

Kelly Kalal expressed concerns over the use of artificial turf for the ballfields and the potential harm that it could have on both the environment and the participants. Peter Doob also expressed concerns over artificial turf and pointed out that it can get 25% hotter than natural grass. Brigitt Warren expressed concerns about the impact of lighting on the residents that are adjacent to the park as well as the fields being designed primarily for non-local use. And Jake Klaus expressed concern for the current groups using the fields for rugby, soccer and youth football and the lack of other available fields for these activities.

6. Previous Action items

The items were reviewed and accomplished.

7. Financials

Motion by Brad to approve the FY24 2nd Qtr. financials. Seconded by Linda. All in favor.

8. Covenant Infractions

Motion by Linda to send a 15-day notice to 7336 Carved Stone and to close the case of 6594 Waning Moon. Seconded by Brad. All in favor.

9. Discussions

Email Vote – An email vote occurred on November 17 to send a letter to the County regarding pedestrian safety around Cradlerock.

Advertising Budget – Motion by Linda to increase the FY24 advertising budget to \$500. Seconded by Brad. All in favor.

OB CARES – Motion by Linda to support the collective effort of CARES Groups in Columbia for a Community Engagement and Restoration Mini Grant, through advertising in our various mediums. Seconded by Brad. All in favor.

Work Session – It was agreed that no work session would be held in December.

10. Reports

Village manager – a written report was submitted.
CA Rep (*Andy Stack*) -- a written report was submitted.

11. Review of action items

1. Mike and Craig will schedule another meeting with DPW to further discuss safety options around Cradlerock.

2. Craig will schedule a tour of field lights with the Rec and Parks and coordinate with them about the way forward on the fields, i.e., timeline, future engagements, and/or public comment period.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Craig Barton