

OWEN BROWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

April 5, 2011

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Approved: April 19, 2010

The Board of Directors of the Owen Brown Community Association, Inc. conducted its regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at the Owen Brown Community Center, 6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, Maryland 21045. Board Chair, Summer Romack; Vice Chair, Ed Cosentino; Board Members, Pearl Atkinson-Stewart, John Boyle, Ann Febraro, and Kecia Rome; CA Representative, Andy Stack; Teen Representative, David Green; OBCA manager, Nancy L. Thomas and Recording Secretary, Rachel Eisenhauer, were in attendance. Board member, Wayne Eldridge not present.

Summer Romack called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

1. Adopt agenda. Ann moved. John 2nd. Approved by consensus.
2. Approval of March 15, 2011 minutes. John moved and Ed 2nd. Approved by consensus.
- 3 Resident Comments- Lyles Battle received ballot when he received the Observer. Two election committee meetings were held but Lyles stated he did not receive notice. Ed says he was notified by email. Lyles stated he did not receive the email so he did not attend. Pearl is concerned about the election committee procedures. She stated that the Election Committee's only outside member was not notified and she is concerned about volunteer inclusion and transparency. Ed stated that he notified Lyles by email and tried to show the email to Pearl using his laptop email list. Pearl stated that she found it disturbing that the only minority resident on the committee should be left out of the committee meetings where major decisions were made, such as the election of the chair/vice chair and the selection of candidates for positions on the ballot, etc. Ed said that all he could do was notify Lyles. Pearl wanted to know if anyone tried to call him. Ed said no he did not call but emailed Lyles and double checked the email address with Nancy. He also stated that as this is a volunteer organization he would welcome additional help and certainly Pearl could volunteer. Pearl stated that the Committee never published their meetings with sufficient notification to members or the public, even though she informed the Committee that they would be in violation of our documents and MD Law on meeting rules. The ballots were not numbered, as discussed before mailing. Ed told her she needed to stop implying that he had done something wrong or he would resign. Lyles was informed that the committee had expected him to assist them on April 30th to count ballots. Pearl stated that the fact is that on other occasions, communication with minority residents was miscommunicated, and Pearl feels that this must stop. Summer asked her what facts she had to make that statement. Pearl replied, this is the third incident reported to the Board, the first was by Wayne, that his constituent called the office for rental space and was given a rate, but when she showed up to sign the contract and they saw she was a minority and they quoted her another rate. (Nancy disputed this claim) The second incident involved Summer, who was given the name and telephone number to contact a person to volunteer to represent the seniors on the Revitalization Committee. She never called him, stating in an email that she did not

have time to make a telephone call, even though she had the number for 3 months, so the senior never attended any of the meetings. The senior is an African American. Now tonight, an African American reported that he was not contacted to volunteer. He came to the Board tonight to ask why not? Pearl stated that the miscommunication on three occasions to minority residents should be of major concern to every Board member. Nancy stated that she agreed that these things should not continue. Ed said he had had enough of Pearl's insinuations, he was a volunteer and then Ed resigned and walked out. Summer stated that Pearl had commented enough on the Election Committee and that Pearl should not insinuate wrong doing without factual basis. Pearl stated that she just presented only substantiated facts tonight and they were not insinuations. Summer stated that as Chair, the Board meeting must continue. Pearl stated that she had been called on to comment on my facts by the chair and she had the floor and was still on topic. Summer stated that as Chair she was making the decision to move on with the meeting.

4. Invited guests -

Meghan Pierce, OBCA events planner, made a presentation about the website to make it easier for public access. She is requesting to revamp web page for about \$1500-2,000. Summer suggests reviewing what is needed to see what can be completed in-house. Meghan to write up a proposal for the Communications Committee to review and Summer will also help to further develop the website.

5. Consent agenda - none

6. Covenant decisions - none

7. Financial decisions

8. CA/County decisions - none

9. Other decisions - none

10. Reports

a. Covenant - none

b. CA Representative – Andy Stack stated that CA is trying to pursue a new dredging contract to finish Lake Elkhorn. Dam needs to be repaired. CA also working on about 15 watershed projects. Ken Miser, BRAC Committee presentation about enormous development at Ft. Meade expecting about 200,000 jobs to be created and some people will want to live in Howard County. Making progress on CSS but system is now 10 years old so it may not be fitted for the web. CA board addressing CA President's goals. Developing Aquatics development plan. Public meeting on plans for Symphony Woods.

c. Manager – Nancy received phone calls about keeping Tot Lots. She suggested two other tot lots. CA is waiting to hear from OBVB. Pearl moved to send letter to CA not to remove any more tot lots in Owen Brown. Kecia 2nd. Adopted by consensus. Nancy to write letter. Nancy also stated that there is a Community meeting May 19 with Jessie Newburn. Nancy is working with a rental software program. She also stated that a very productive staff meeting was held tonight before the Board's meeting. Lastly, Nancy stated that the office had received 38 mailed in ballots including the one tonight from Lyles. She also stated that she was surprised by Lyles comments as she called him after he missed the first Election Committee meeting. He then came into the Center and Gordon met with him after the first Election Committee meeting to give him information including the date of the next meeting. Nancy also confirmed his email address at that time.

d. Committees

i. Election Committee – Pearl requests that parliamentarian look into Open Meetings law and the Owen Brown by laws to see if any of these were violated by committee.

ii. Community Plan Committee – CA hosted session with all villages. Pearl and Andy attended meeting. Andy reported on the meeting. Wilde Lake Village is about to file its plan. Walk about the village center planned for April 9th. Jane Dembner and Chick Rhodehamel from CA will be there. John Boyle and Sara Husain will do a dry walk of route.

11. Review of Action Item from previous meeting- Nancy completed all items.

12. Discussions- none

13. Board Member comments- Andy requested that Board members please give him any CA goals ; David stated that he would not be at next meeting as he will be on a mission to Mexico; Kecia mentioned that the middle school students liked the pizza party and she was hopeful that there would be more events; Kecia also suggested that all Board members should be mindful of invited guests and the conduct of meetings. Kecia also had not received Observer but she had a question about the order of names on ballot as her name is first in some places but last in others. Nancy explained that the order on the ballot is the order the names were drawn by the committee members but the members wanted to be fair and thought there should be a different order in other print as well; Kecia also suggested an Observer corrections section; Ann – got her Observer but ballot not cut squarely; Pearl agreed with Ann and stated that the ballot did not look professionally printed and the ballot should have ballot numbers; Pearl requested that the Parliamentarian look into proper ballots; Pearl attended Green Fest and it was very good. Pearl stated she had a fiduciary responsibility to question actions by members and that she was only asking questions – these were not accusations but only questions.

14. Chair report –Summer asked about candidate’s night procedures and Nancy stated that the procedure for running candidates night would be to email questions to candidates. Each candidate would answer 4 questions. Candidates’ night would be run by Lyles and Gordon. Andy added that each candidate would be allowed to introduce themselves. Summer apologized for speaking loudly but she stated that it is unjust to question motives of volunteers without supporting information. Summer also stated that she would not seek nor serve if voted as the Chair of the OBVB for the coming year.

15. Adjournment to Executive session - John moved Ann 2nd; approved by consensus.

Action item:

1. Nancy to write letter to CA about tot lots.
2. Nancy to check about delivery of Observer.
3. Nancy to check about the mail-in ballots.
4. Parliamentarian to check on Maryland Law and OBCA bylaws to see if any were broken by the Election Committee and to see if the ballots are proper.

Owen Brown Village Board Meeting

April 5, 2011

Agenda

1. Adopt agenda - 7:00 pm
2. Approval of minutes – 5 minutes
1. March 15, 2011
3. Resident Comments – 10 minutes
4. Invited guests - 5 minutes
Meghan Pierce
5. Consent agenda – 0 minutes
6. Covenant decisions – 10 minutes

7. Financial decisions – 5 minutes
 Approve funds for website upgrade
 8. CA/County decisions – 5 minutes
 9. Other decisions – 5 minutes
 10. Reports – 20 minutes
 - A. Covenant
 - B. CA Representative
 - C. Manager
 - D. Committees
 - i. Election Committee
 - ii. Community Plan Committee
 11. Review of Action Item from previous meeting - 0 minutes
 12. Discussions – 0 minutes
 13. Board Member comments – 15 minutes
 14. Chair report – 5 minutes
 15. Adjournment
- Executive Session after meeting