

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Held: September 8, 2011**

Approved: September 22, 2011

In accordance with written notice the CA Board of Directors Meeting was convened on September 8, 2011, at the Columbia Association Building. The following members were present: Chair, Michael Cornell, Shari Zaret, Ed Coleman, Suzanne Waller, Tom Coale, Cynthia Coyle, Gregg Schwind (arrived at 7:36 p.m.), Alex Hekimian, Phil Kirsch and Phil Nelson, President. Also in attendance Staff Liaisons Chick Rhodehamel, Susan Krabbe and Marc Kolp.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Board of Directors Meeting was called to Order at 7:33 p.m. by the Chair, Michael Cornell

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Suzanne Waller moved to approve the agenda, Cynthia Coyle seconded. Agenda approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:** Suzanne Waller moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Cynthia Coyle. A number of revisions to the minutes were discussed.  
**Action:** Approval of the August 25, 2011 Minutes was tabled to the next meeting.

**RESIDENT SPEAKOUT:**

- (a) Dan Woodruff , Chair for Dorsey's Search Village spoke regarding the Capital Budget.
  
- (b) Margaret Mauro and Sandy Cederbaum spoke on behalf of the Village of Oakland Mills with respect to the Capital Budget. Fred Eiland, Community Organizer for Oakland Mills was introduced.
  
- (c) Paul Verchinski of Oakland Mills spoke regarding Senior Issues.
  
- (d) Barbara Wright of Wilde Lake attended on behalf the Village Board and presented projects to be considered in the FY2013 & FY2014 budgets, including Property Standard Evaluator Program, sign upgrading, replacement copier, tot lot renovation, additional lighting of the Gazebo and an eight lane outdoor pool.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:** Michael Cornell advised that he would not be at the next Board of Directors meeting.

**ADDITIONAL REMARKS:** Shari Zaret complimented CA Open Space following the recent Hurricane.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOARD ACTIONS:**

- (a) **Consent Agenda:** none
- (b) **Other Recommendations for Board Action:** none

## COMMITTEE AGENDAS:

### A. Planning and Strategy Committee

#### 1. Public Pre-Budget Input Session for the FY13 and FY14 Draft Budgets

- (a) **Employee Compensation Framework:** Committee reviewed the Draft Employee Compensation Framework prepared by Phil Nelson.  
**Action:** Committee requested that Phil Nelson amend the Employee Compensation Framework to include the suggestions given by the Committee and to include specific examples.
- (b) **Funding and Operating Framework for Public Services In Columbia:**  
Discussion of the funding and operating framework for public services in Columbia and what CA is responsible for vs. what Howard County is responsible for and how to develop a partnership with the County.
- (c) **Vision Statement for Symphony Woods:** Discussion on what the Vision Statement should include and what makes Symphony Woods Park different from other outdoor venues.  
**Action:** Shari Zaret made a motion that CA Board of Directors approve the following Vision Statement, seconded by Alex Hekimian. Unanimously approved by the Committee.

#### *“Vision Statement*

Symphony Woods Park will be Columbia’s central park one day and will be a place of music, the arts and nature. It will be an inviting and beautiful gathering place that provides a respite- a breathing place for downtown. Improvements will be designed to have minimal impact to the park’s tree and other natural features. The north side of the park between Merriweather Post Pavilion and Little Patuxent Parkway which experiences the highest level of use, especially during festivals and other events, will be improved to better support such use, while the remainder of the park will provide opportunities for less intensive recreational uses such as walking through the woods.

The park will function in a variety of ways in the life of the community and provide:

- A **gathering space and setting for cultural events** and performances, and community and life events;
- A **green place of respite** that provides the opportunity for peaceful enjoyment of nature;
- A **destination for active living** offering **extensive pathways** that will wind through the park;
- A **place for casual social interaction and people watching** enlivened by the attraction and sounds of **water** at the **fountain**;

- A “**front porch**” for **Merriweather Post Pavilion** that will enhance the experience of Pavilion patrons.
- A **connector** among downtown Columbia activity centers and other downtown gathering spaces and amenity areas.

The aesthetic vision for the park as an enhanced woodland will support these functions. Symphony Woods is appealing to people today because of its woodsy character. Passersby on Little Patuxent Parkway and people walking through the park enjoy views through the mature trees made possible through intensive maintenance of the understory. The pleasant quality of these woods is the primary influence on the park’s character now and into the future. The central issue in designing Symphony Woods Park is to create access through the woods in a way that protects the trees and the natural landscape while supporting use of the park by greater numbers of people.

A second important influence on the park’s design and character is the adjacency of Merriweather Post Pavilion. Many, if not most, Columbia residents associate Symphony Woods with Merriweather concerts or graduation ceremonies held at Merriweather. Proximity to Merriweather makes this park special. The importance of the proximity of Merriweather is reflected through the design of park circulation. Cultural programming and art installations expected after initial park improvements will complement the activities at Merriweather and ultimately create the new kind of cultural park envisioned in the Downtown Columbia Plan adopted by the Howard County Council in 2009.

The park’s frontage and high visibility from Little Patuxent Parkway is a third major consideration for the design of the park. The north side of the park must look appealing from the road. In this way the value of the park to the community extends beyond the experiences of park visitors. This curb appeal is achieved through use of strong forms which “read” from the street and inclusion of a large and inviting entry plaza. The fountain will be designed to be conspicuous and interesting from the street as well.”

- (d) Nomination and Appointment to the Financial Advisory Committee.** Ed Coleman made a motion that the Board approve and appoint Mr. Raymond Plummer to the Financial Advisory Committee for FY2012, seconded by Shari Zaret. Board approved the appointment unanimously.
- Action:** Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Raymond Plummer to the Financial Advisory Committee for FY2012.

**B. Strategic Implementation Committee:**

Gregg Schwind made a motion to add to the next SIC agenda a discussion about the short term future of Splashdown, seconded by Suzanne Waller. Approved unanimously.

**C. External Relations Committee:**

Discussion regarding Greg Fox’s proposed resolution 150-2011 to amend the Howard County Charter which limits the exercise of power in use of condemning property to claim it.

Update given on four remaining village presentations. ERC is working on the Chamber of Commerce and the Howard County Delegation meetings which will all be held in a reception environment.

**D. Audit Committee**

**IRS Forms 990 and 990T – FY 2011:** There was no Audit Committee quorum. Suzanne Waller moved that IRS Forms 990 and 990T – FY2011 be presented directly to the Board for approval, seconded by Tom Coale. Approved Unanimously.

**Action:** Board approved motion to present IRS Forms 990 and 990T directly to the Board.

Presentation of Forms 990 and 990T given by Susan Krabbe.

Alex Hekimian moved to waive the Rules so that no second reading was required, seconded by Suzanne Waller. Motion approved unanimously.

**Action:** Board approved motion to waive Rules so that no second reading was required.

Gregg Schwind moved to accept and file IRS Forms 990 and 990T for FY 2011, seconded by Alex Hekimian. Vote - In favor: Cynthia Coyle, Tom Coale, Phil Kirsch, Suzanne Waller, Gregg Schwind, Michael Cornell and Alex Hekimian, Opposed: none; Abstaining: Shari Zaret and Ed Coleman. Vote 7-0-2.

**Action:** Board approved motion to accept and file IRS Forms 990 and 990T for FY2011.

**TALKING POINTS** – Prepared and presented by Alison Mathieson

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING ADJOURNED:** The Board of Directors Meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Mathieson  
Recording Secretary