

## **Minutes of External Relations Committee Meeting September 4, 2008**

The regular meeting of the External Relations Committee was held on Thursday, September 4, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbia Association building. Present were the Chair, Pearl Atkinson-Stewart, Vice Chair Suzanne Waller, member Alex Hekimian, Staff Liaison Steve Sattler, and Rob Goldman, substituting for President Maggie Brown.

**Closed Meetings** The Vice Chair reported that no closed meetings were held or scheduled to be held.

### **Agenda**

**Action:** Ms. Waller moved to accept the agenda and Mr. Hekimian seconded; the agenda was accepted unanimously as presented.

**Resident Speakout** There were three resident speakers, all from Wilde Lake.

- 1) Ginger Scott expressed concern that the President declined to brief the Board on deliberations between GGP and CA, and instead stated that Greg Hamm of GGP would brief the Board.
- 2) Phil Kirsch spoke on behalf of the Wilde Lake Village Board, asking that the committee advocate on its behalf with the county regarding the Kimco development plans for the village center.
- 3) James Howard asked that the committee create a pilot program to videotape the Financial Analysis Committee [sic]<sup>1</sup>, of which he is a member.

### **Minutes**

**Action:** Ms. Waller moved and Mr. Hekimian seconded a motion to approve the minutes of August 7, 2008. Mr. Hekimian suggested the following changes:

- 1) Correct the spelling of his last name to “Hekimian” in the two places it was misspelled.
- 2) On page 2, under Kimco Advertising, in the last full line of the paragraph, following the word “apostrophe,” add “and ‘s.’”

**Action:** Mr. Hekimian moved, and Ms. Waller seconded that the minutes be approved as amended, and the motion passed unanimously. See attached revision.

**Business Roundtable** Pam Klahr of the Howard County Chamber of Commerce and Dick Story of the Howard County Economic Development Authority discussed issues of concern to the Howard County business community. These issues included the county’s economic outlook, BRAC, corporate wellness, “green” issues, signage, village reinvestment, downtown development, and transportation issues including efforts to employ county residents in the county.

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<sup>1</sup> The name of the committee is actually the Financial Advisory Committee.

**Columbia—Getting to Know You Program** The committee discussed creating a Columbia “Getting to Know You” program to showcase Columbia’s communities and recreational facilities.

**Action:** This issue was tabled until the October meeting in order to get more information from other resources that will indicate the level of interest and possible sources of funding

**Video Taping of Board and Committee Meetings** The committee discussed the feasibility of videotaping the Board and Committee meetings.

**Action:** The committee decided they needed staff to research the issue, including budget information, for the October meeting in order to develop a proposal to submit to the board.

**Policy on Proposed Legislation** The committee discussed whether one board member could call a special meeting or if the policy should require a majority of the board. A question then arose about whether or not an item voted on by the committee, but not recommended to the board, is sent to the board for further consideration.

**Action:** The committee agreed to postpone voting on the policy on proposed legislation until the November meeting so that staff could research the procedural point.

**Communication Effectiveness** Steve Sattler presented a report on community outreach and effective communication. He agreed to give an overview of CA’s communications capabilities to the two newest Board members (Ms. Waller and Mr. Hekimian) on Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

#### **Advocacy Policy and Process**

**Action:** The committee decided to postpone discussion of this item until the October meeting to allow the village boards more time to respond with suggestions and comments.

**Action:** The committee decided to ask the Planning and Strategy Committee if the Wilde Lake Village Board advocacy request was better handled in that committee since it was responsible for the village revitalization issue. It will send a letter notifying the Wilde Lake Village Board and Mr. Kirsch that the issue has been transferred.

#### **Committee Tracking Form**

**Action:** Discussion on creating a citizens’ watchdog group for county council legislation was added to the November agenda.

**Other Business** The committee discussed the timely posting of the minutes, and asked that attachments be separately numbered if there were more than one.

Ms. Waller moved, and Mr. Hekimian seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by unanimous consent at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Gilland Roby  
Recording Secretary

***APPROVED BY THE ERC ON OCTOBER 2, 2008***