



Oakland Mills Neighborhood Enhancement Advisory Committee Report for February 2017

COMMITTEE MEETING: 28 February 2017

ATTENDEES: Bob Bellamy, Sandy Cederbaum, Elinda Dennis, Jervis Dorton, Phil Engelke, Lynn Engelke, Anne Fairbairn, Judy Gottsagen, Claudia Hollywood, Paul Verchinski, Kay Wisniewski, and Gerry Witte

TASK FORCE PROPOSAL

- Phil Engelke and Gerry Witte (Chair, Oakland Mills Public Space Advisory Committee [PSAC]) attended the meeting to invite NEAC to join with them and with the OM Covenant Advisors to create a new task force. This new group, which will include the OM Covenant Advisors as well as PSAC members, will focus on properties in Oakland Mills where ownership and responsibility are unclear and problems can easily fall through the cracks. The task force was presented to the OM Board at their February 14, 2017 meeting and was strongly supported. It is not intended to be yet another committee, but a group that will work in partnership with CA and the County in an as-needed basis on very specific issues. Examples of areas of concern that might be addressed are street and pathway signs, utility boxes, trash and dumping, street trees, sidewalks, land erosion, and lighting. NEAC enthusiastically endorsed this plan, and members will begin work to developing and prioritizing a list of concerns.

RENEW.REHAB.REPLACE WORKSHOP

- The next workshop (*Rethinking Columbia's Lawns and Gardens*) is scheduled for April 8, 2017. Speakers will include Bob Gorman (landscape architect), Mark Storch (landscape architect and design/build contractor), John McCoy (CA Watershed Manager), and Kay Wisniewski. Topics will include renewing existing gardens, working with a contractor, building and financing rain gardens, and complying with the Oakland Mills landscaping guidelines.

ARCHITECTURE GUIDELINES SUBCOMMITTEE

- Following a period of public comment and a public hearing at the January 24 Board meeting, the NEAC Architectural Guidelines subcommittee (Co-Chair Claudia Hollywood), Board members (Co-Chair Judy Gottsagen and Lynn Engelke), Architecture Committee Chair Kay Wisniewski, and OMCA staff (Sandy Cederbaum, Bob Bellamy and Carrie Wenholz) met on February 9, 2017 with RAC representative Elinda Dennis to incorporate suggestions from residents and from the RAC. The finalized guidelines were submitted for Board vote at the February 28, 2017 Board meeting. The Board unanimously approved the guidelines, which will be sent to CA attorneys for legal review, and pending any substantive changes by the attorneys, will go into effect on March 28, 2017.

PROPERTY STANDARDS EVALUATION

- NEAC will work with OMCA staff to include a placeholder for funding the PSE in our submission to CA for the FY19/20 two-year budget cycle. Work on the submission will begin this summer, and CA will vote on it in February 2018. In preparation, NEAC will review proposal documents previously submitted to the Board, rewrite and refocus our earlier proposal for Board support, and consult with other Villages conducting PSEs. Sandy volunteered to invite representatives from Harpers Choice to a future NEAC meeting, with the goal of learning from the experience of a comparable village in order to help us to outline a reasonable timeline and process, to identify desired outcomes, and to review the survey's benefits/return on investment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 8, 2017: *RENEW. REHAB. REPLACE. Rethinking Columbia's Lawns and Gardens*
- April 18, 2017 NEAC meeting