



Oakland Mills Neighborhood Enhancement Advisory Committee Report for April 2017 (revised)

COMMITTEE MEETING: 18 April 2017

ATTENDEES: Sandy Cederbaum, Elinda Dennis, Lynn Engelke, Claudia Hollywood, and Kay Wisniewski

ARCHITECTURE GUIDELINES SUBCOMMITTEE

- The draft guidelines finalized by the subcommittee were submitted for Board vote at the February 28, 2017 Board meeting. The Board unanimously approved the guidelines with an effective date of March 28, 2017, pending any substantive changes by CA attorneys conducting a legal review of the document. The CA attorneys returned suggested changes to the subcommittee, primarily involving grammar and word choice. These have been incorporated into a final document and will be submitted to the Board at the April 25 meeting.

RENEW.REHAB.REPLACE WORKSHOP

- The April 18, 2017 workshop (*Rethinking Columbia's Lawns and Gardens*) – which included presentations by Bob Gorman (landscape architect), Mark Storch (landscape architect and design/build contractor), John McCoy (CA Watershed Manager), and Kay Wisniewski (OM AC Chair) – was well attended and very successful. Great interest was expressed in a future workshop focusing on trees, with topics including planting and replanting, pruning, selecting appropriate species, and actions that can be taken now to protect the future of the beautiful Oakland Mills tree canopy. NEAC is exploring possible presenters and appropriate dates available in the fall for this workshop.

TASK FORCE PROPOSAL

- Neither Phil Engelke nor Gerry Witte were able to attend the April 18th meeting to discuss next steps for the new Public Space Task Force. Prior to the meeting, however, Gerry submitted a list of concerns that might be addressed in a targeted, time-limited manner, as well as a suggested "chain of command" and step-by-step strategy and that will allow NEAC members to initiate and oversee a specific project while also engaging the larger community in the effort. NEAC reviewed these plans and enthusiastically endorsed them. Implementation will begin in the next Board year.

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

- May 23, 2017 NEAC meeting (tentative)