



RIDGELY'S DELIGHT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING **April 3rd, 2013, Slider's Bar & Grill 7:00 PM**

Bike Master Plan

- Nate Evans, Nikia Mack – Baltimore City Dept. of Transportation
- The DOT is updating the 2006 Bike Master Plan to reflect accomplishments and new challenges.
- The new plan will focus on neighborhood level improvements for more feasible implementation and updated policies to make biking an easier transportation option.
- Possibilities they are looking into include bike lanes between the curb and the parked cars for better protection from the traffic.
- Suggestions were made at the meeting to improve the lighting and signage on the existing bike trails and make it easier to take bikes on commuter trains.
- Take the online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/bikeplanupdate
- Upcoming events: Bike to work day May 17th, Bike Counts May 7th-9th and Tour dem Parks, Hon June 9th.
- Questions, comments or suggestions to nate.evans@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-6856

Baltimore Energy Challenge

- Noreen Ahmed, Assistant Program Coordinator, Baltimore Energy Challenge
- Goal is to teach people how to lower their utility usage
- Energy saving tips include: Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs, CFL's which use much less energy; turn down your thermostat and/or install a programmable thermostat (ideal winter temp is 68 degrees, summer 78 degrees); wrap and turn down temp on you hot water heater; get low-flow showerheads; turn off electronics, etc and use powerstrips to do it; wash laundry in cold water an line dry; increase refrigerator efficiency by cleaning the coils every 6 months and maintain fridge at 37 degrees and freezer at 3 degrees; maintain your heating system by replacing filters, regular servicing, etc; insulate and air seal your home.
- The concern was raised that CFL's contain a small amount of mercury so should be disposed of properly. Go to <http://www2.epa.gov/cfl/recycling-and-disposal-after-cfl-burns-out#whererecycle> to find out where you can recycle the bulbs.
- Quick home energy check-up if offered free by BGE. This service will give you free CFLs and other upgrades, as well as home energy advice. You can schedule a visit by calling 1-877-685-7377.
- For more details on energy tips and resources for energy assistance and weatherization assistance programs, go to www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org or call 410-927-6088.
- Suggestion was made that we see if we can work with Baltimore Energy Challenge program to get CFL's for everyone in the neighborhood for their porch lights to improve the lighting in the neighborhood for safety reasons and to lower energy bills while doing it. We will look into this further re: the feasibility of it.

Treasury Report

- Ended February: \$18,789.13. Ending March: \$18,569.13.
- Of current funds: \$4008 already spoken for (Downtown Partnership, Ruppert, memorial)
- Downtown Partnership was in the neighborhood this week for cleaning.

Safety Report

- New safety@ridgelysdelight.org address. You can use this site to make neighbors aware of safety concerns but should call 911 for anything that needs immediate police attention.

Zip Car update

- Still have 2 cars on Warner St. despite the Zip Car announcement that they would be removing one and giving us back one of our parking places. Unclear, in light of this, exactly what their plan is at this point.

Zoning Committee update

- Planning commission voted last week and supported of the recommendations made by our committee here in Ridgely's. Thanks were expressed for a job well done by the committee members. The Burgundy Parking Lot is safe. Only exceptions were that they did not give Quigley's the C1 status which would have allowed the building to stay commercial, even if not operating as a commercial establishment for a year or more. There is no threat to its remaining commercial at this point, as long it is maintained as such with no lapse greater than 1 year. The Mini Mart also did not get the C1 status that was recommended by the committee. That is still in the appeal process but if they do not get approved, they will have to stop selling alcohol within 2 years. If you want to keep them in the neighborhood there is a petition available at the Mini Mart that you can sign to support their efforts to keep their right to sell alcohol.

Orioles Opening Day April 5th

- Road closure on Portland between Greene and Emory. Access via Washington/Emory.

Community Happy Hour – April 12th – Quigley's Half-Irish Pub

- Pushing back one week due to Opening Day festivities.

Mayor's City Cleanup – Saturday April 20th 2013 – 9am – 12pm

- We are part of the Mayor's competition, so please come out and help out around the neighborhood!
- Taking suggestions for problem areas/projects to concentrate on. president@ridgelysdelight.org

Ridgely's Delight Pirates! (Yarrrr!)

- June Happy Hour will be on the Urban Pirates cruise, June 7th, 8:30pm sail time. They depart from Fell's Point. <NOTE: The date has been changed to Friday, Aug. 2.>
- Eat before you go as food is not served on board and bring your own drinks.
- People who are interested in participating should book their reservations soon to guarantee a place on the boat. There are sometimes GroupOn's available.
- Book your reservation now!

Jazz in the Park, June 12th– 6-8pm.

- Elliot Levine
- Community cookout/catering/wine by The Corner

Rob LaPin –Some suggestions for further discussion in future meetings

- Opening Day Gala-would like to make it an annual event and a fund raiser. Rob will come up with a plan with details so people can get some idea of what it would cost and involve to organize.
- Residential Bill of Rights as a possibility which would allow the Community Association to enforce things like neighbors picking up the trash in front of their houses, leaving out trash cans, etc. This suggestion raised some concerns at the meeting so would certainly require a great deal more discussion before considering putting it into effect.
- Block captains to help enforce safety and neighborhood cleanliness etc.

Dog Park Possibility

- Eric raised the issue again about the possibility of a dog park in the neighborhood which would be a fenced area where dogs are allowed off leash. The city will pay for installation of the fencing for such an area if this is something we decide we want and can identify an appropriate area for it.
- There was a lot of discussion about this and whether or not it is needed, in light of the fact that people are currently using Conway Park for this purpose. There have though, been a few instances in the neighborhood, of off leash dogs attacking other people's dog and there are people who are not comfortable using Conway Park because of the dogs off leash there so the idea of a dog park certainly merits more discussion.

Justin Lane from Bill Cole's Office

- The Hampton Inn applied for a license to have a Beer Garden on the outside patio but this was denied.
- Annette raised the issue, once again, that the Hampton Inn continues to double park cars and block the road due to their lack of appropriate space to accommodate parking for their guests.
- We asked Justin to find out more about what it would required to get a community vegetable garden in the neighborhood. He will look into it.