

**Lutherville Community Association
General Meeting October 13, 2009**

Present:

Jeff Dier, Marcia Hettinger, Alice Parson, Leslie Storms, Marie Frederick, Karen Morrissey, Tricia Smith, Margo Chaney, Sharyn Kuczka, Michelle Shawyer, Ted Rossman, Monica Enoch, Heather Binnix, Laurie Hooper, and Eric Rockel, Paul Beziat, Al Fischer, Sue Harvey, Barry Hunter, Mark Malloy, Dick Penhallegon, Jane and Fran Raley, Jane and Bob Ruppel, Colleen Smart and Jan Spigler

There was a tribute to former President of LCA Fred Spigler by Eric Rockel.

Monica introduced the speakers – Capt. Marty Lurz and Lt. McGraw of the Cockeysville Precinct and Capt. Bob Rosendale from the MTA.

- Capt. Lurz said that although the precinct comprises an extremely large area of 229 square miles (1/3 of the County), the Lutherville area has less crime than other parts of the county. In the last 6 months there was: 1 armed robbery which was apprehended in half an hour, 5 burglaries out of 107 in the precinct, 4 second degree (business) burglaries out of 60 in the precinct, 1 auto theft, 13 destructions of property and 18 thefts from autos during the summer of which 14 cars were unlocked.
- There have also been scams against elderly people by criminals posing as roofers, satellite dish installers, etc.
- Don't be afraid to call 911 for anything that looks suspicious.
- Captain Rosendale reported that the Light Rail north of North Avenue has been extremely quiet this year with 13 crimes including 2 strong-arm robberies in which suspects were caught within 30 minutes.
- Captain Rosendale addressed the issue of whether Light Rail brings crime into neighborhoods. Wegman's did a study and found 10% of shoplifters took the Light Rail. Most offenders have a partner waiting in a car.
- The recent fatal accident involving two teens was discussed. No trespass signs are posted near tracks and the lines are patrolled. Operators are to call the MTA police if trespassers are seen.
- All of the Light Rail trains have cameras and 9 cameras are also on the platform at the Timonium Station. Civilian fare inspectors are on the trains to do random sweeps. Every car has an intercom system. The plan is for placement of cameras on all of the platforms as the budget allows. Al Fischer inquired about placement of cameras on the Lutherville Light Rail platform. He will provide the cost to Monica Enoch for her to follow up. The State is moving toward interoperability for all cameras throughout the State.
- Speed cameras are at Padonia Elementary and Dulaney High Schools. Violators will receive a ticket with a fine, but no points. Police radar is based on community complaints. Lt. McGraw can be contacted at 410-887-1828.

Minutes:

- Minutes of the May 2009 General Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- The report showed \$18,646 in T. Rowe Price and \$3,216 at M&T Bank.
- There is a question of staying with M&T which has totally free checking or looking into other banks.
- The report was approved.

Public Facilities – Ted Rossman

- Roland Run - Ted and Jeff are in the process of gathering all of the files on Roland Run so that Michael McCann can see if there is any leverage to get relief from the County or State. Mel Timmons has material and will return to Lutherville the end of October.
- Seminary Ave. Bridge – Al Fischer is working through Delagate Frank on the flood plain and Seminary Ave. Bridge issues. Problems include that federal law was not followed, the 100-year storm would be 3 feet over the bridge and the bridge may vibrate with truck traffic.
- Tree-Mendous MD- LTRC is giving 100 trees to replace some of the trees cut down. This is waiting for the County's approval.
- Historic Lutherville Signs – Marie said the Lutherville Garden Club has about 10 volunteers who will break into small groups. Maybe just mums will be planted to start, with more in the spring.
- Adopt-A-Highway – Eric said 3 people covered an area along Seminary Ave. on October 3.
- Seminary and Greenspring Park beautification– Eric checked prices for the Country Club Park sign and found it will cost about \$700-800. Funds for this project may be available in the spring from the Baltimore Community Foundation. If anyone wants to help, get in touch with Eric.
- FEMA is updating the 1993 flood plain map. Roland Run is the only area in Baltimore County not yet covered.

Zoning – Eric Rockel

- Luther-Villa – There was a decision on Luther-Villa today. The developer had purchased 8 lots and had to get a forest buffer variance because of the stream. He was allowed to reduce the buffer about 40%, but appealed to the Board of Appeals and the Circuit Court. The case was remanded to the Board of Appeals, which again found in favor of LCA against the developer. There was a second appeal to the Circuit Court, which again ruled against the developer. This took about 3 years and cost about \$24,000. The developer could still appeal to the Court of Special Appeals or submit new plans with a reduced number of houses.
- Yellow Line – The Traffic Advisory Group is urging the State to speed up the timetable on this line from York Rd. in the city to Towson and the Light Rail north of the Beltway. The plan to put a garage and traffic hub at Charles St. would cause flood plain problems and would not be good for the public safety of the community. Eric will monitor future developments through a combination of

- keeping in touch with the Greater Towson Council of Community Associations and his own involvement with the Greater Timonium Community Council.
- Timonium Crossing – The attorney for the group has no news and the engineer has not returned telephone calls.

Special Events – Heather Binnix

- Halloween Party – Scheduled for October 24 from 2-4PM at Spangler Hall.

Communications – Sharyn Kuczka

- There was a meeting about the guidelines for the Newsletter, Website and Listserv. If the committee decides to launch Facebook, it should be soon.

Membership – Margo Chaney

- There are now 83 family memberships and 65 singles, for a total of 231, which is up by 2 from last year.
- A membership drive in which Board members will canvas the neighborhood will take place within the next couple of months.
- The survey report will be available at the next meeting.
- Houses built in the last few years may not be on the mailing list.

Traffic – Laurie Hooper

- There was a committee meeting on September 29. Future meetings will be on December 1, February 23 and April 20 at 7:00PM in Spangler Hall.
- Councilman McIntyre's office supported the request for a speed camera at Francke Ave. near the ball field. The County did not include this location on their list.
- There is concern about the safety of children coming from Lincoln Avenue and crossing Bellona Ave. between Seminary and Charles to get to the Orchard Hills fields. A group from LCA and nearby residents met with Keith Link of County Traffic and Engineering yesterday. Our understanding is the State plans to build sidewalks from Charles to Orthoridge and there may be plans for a crosswalk at Orthoridge. Keith will check out the State plans for a crosswalk and the possibility of creating islands at Orthoridge and Lincoln Aves. to slow down traffic, if funds are available. There was also a discussion of the safety of folks leaving Sunday church services at Edgewood United Methodist Church. Keith suggested relocating their sign, cutting down a particular tree, and having a congregant with a hand held sign direct traffic to allow for the exit of parishioners.

History – Karen Morrissey

- The Lecture Series for March and April is being planned. Let Karen know if you can help.

Hospitality – Tricia Smith

- Let Tricia know about new neighbors.

Nominating – Michelle Shawyer

- The committee is looking for more members.

Charles Street

- There is nothing new. The plans have not been seen yet.

New Business

- Cool Kids Run – This will take place on June 12 through the heart of the Lutherville Community to support the families of children with cancer. Details will be available at the next meeting.