



**Wilde Lake Village Board Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: A hybrid meeting of the Wilde Lake Board was called to order by Tina Horn Vice Chair; at 6:33 p.m. Members present were Kevin McAliley, Chair, Brandon Cogdell, Kondi Walters-Smith, Chuck Yarbrough, Bill Santos, Wilde Lake Rep to the CA Board; and Sharon Cooper-Kerr, Executive Director/Village Manager.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: *Representatives from Kimco Realty included: Greg Reed, John McDermott, and Jenna Mielke. Also in attendance were Eric DeFrancisco, Grocery Outlet, Beverly White Seals, Community Foundation of Howard County, Willie Flowers, NAACP.*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *Mr. Yarbrough made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Cogdell seconded the motion. All in favor.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Mr. Yarbrough made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 7, 2023. Mr. Cogdell seconded the motion. All in favor.*

RESIDENT SPEAKOUT: No one was available to present remarks.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Grocery Outlet Bargain Market was introduced by Greg Reed as the new grocery store that will replace David's Natural Market. The store is slated to open in the Fall 2024. The full-service store will offer name brand items, produce, organics, frozen, and Halal food options. The Wilde Lake store will have 25-30 employees.

Grocery Outlet stores are owned by independent operators. There are currently forty-four stores nationally, five of which are in Maryland with a total of eight being planned for the state before the end of 2023. The newest store in Maryland opened last month in Catonsville at the Pike Plaza on Route 40.

Recent Events at the Wilde Lake Village Center – John McDermott was introduced as the new Property Manager overseeing the Wilde Lake Village Center. Recently tenants spoken about what has been occurring in the Center and have expressed a need to lock their doors on weekday afternoons to prevent theft and being overrun by the number of teens in the village center. This is more of a global crisis rather than solely village center based. Mr. McDermott

mentioned the Howard County Police Department will have a more visible presence between 2:00 – 5:00 pm weekdays.

Kimco Realty has recently hired Securitas, a security company, to work in the Village Center weekdays from 2:00 – 10:00 pm. Mr. McDermott mentioned that he will reach out the School Resource Officer at Wilde Lake High School to discuss these issues and develop a plan for moving forward. Security cameras will be installed by Securitas on Wednesday. The cameras will be monitored by employees of Securitas offsite. Mr. McDermott explained that after 10 minutes individuals will be asked to move along, or the police will be called. The board expressed concern ranging from bans and uneven enforcement. Mr. Reed mentioned that the plan is not to ban teens from the Village Center.

Mr. McAliley shared that several community leaders are interested in working with our youth to provide opportunities for students that are bored and not currently involved in extracurricular activities at school. Willie Flower, Regional Director of the NAACP spoke and shared that it will take the community to come together and listen to our young people to help them make positive choices.

Mr. McAliley thanked Kimco Realty for their partnership.

Fiscal Year 2023 Audit – Vince Gray, Partner of Fitzpatrick, Leary, and Szarko presented the report of the FY23 audit. An audit is required every three years. Vince thanked the board for selecting the firm to perform the audit and presented a clean audit report. During FY2023 revenue was up by \$40,000 and donations increased by \$20,000. Mr. Gray mentioned the audit footnotes are aligned with previous Wilde Lake audits. Audit adjustments were needed due to coding of contract year related to accounts receivable and deferred revenue.

Mr. Gray suggested contacting the Columbia Association's Controller regarding amending a 941-payroll tax return form the pandemic. He mentioned that our payroll processor could amend the return and share with the IRS but that refunds have been put on pause. Ms. Cooper-Kerr will contact the payroll processor to inquire about this option.

The board voted to accept the audit communication letter and financial statements as written. Ms. Horn made a motion to accept the letter and reports and Mr. Cogdell seconded the motion.

Youth Advocacy – Mr. McAliley shared that community members have been meeting weekly to discuss options for providing safe and positive engagement opportunities for our youth. We are seeking guidance from the students to share what activities they envision for the community. The concept of restorative practice/justice has been introduced recently at community meetings. The group seeks to provide training to adult community leaders and the

village merchants. The Wilde Lake Fall Festival invite will be shared with Wilde Lake High School students.

Mr. Cogdell mentioned that Running Brook Elementary School is conducting a wrestling session led by Anthony Esposito including students from Wilde Lake High School's wrestling team as mentors. Master Kevin of the Wilde Lake Karate School was also mentioned as a resource for the students.

Community Quilt Update – Tina Horn is working on the Wilde Lake square to be added to the community quilt. The quilt will be unveiled next month.

REPORTS

Wilde Lake Representative to the Columbia Association Board of Directors - Bill Santos:

Mr. Santos provided an update on the Columbia Association's Budget Strategy meetings. The Board has identified six strategy areas:

1. Infrastructure
2. Accessibility
3. Affordability
4. Environment
5. Grants
6. Staff Development

A second round of resident surveys will be conducted soon. Mr. Santos stated that a search firm has been selected to conduct the process for hiring a new President and CEO of the Columbia Association.

COMMITTEES:

Education - Tina Horn: Please join the local PTAs. If you cannot attend meetings, you can still join and/or make a donation. Bryant Woods expressed concern about having the filters changed in the school on social media. Both Bryant Woods and Running Brook Elementary Schools have Facebook groups. Tina encouraged the board to join these groups to get a better understanding of what's happening in the schools.

Mr. Santos suggested becoming engaged with Longfellow Elementary School as the school feeds into Wilde Lake Middle and High Schools and several Wilde Lake residents are zoned for Longfellow. Running Brook Elementary School is having a pumpkin fundraiser and will host a Trunk or Treat this month.

Mr. McAliley mentioned Bess Caplan is looking for adult volunteers to help get the students safely to school during the Bike to School event on Wednesday, October 4th.

Neighborhood Reps - Chuck Yarbrough: Ms. Milani previously submitted the Neighborhood Reps report. This is included in the Board packet and on the Google drive. A new postcard has been created and will be shared at the Fall Festival. The newsletters go out the 15th and the 30th of the month. There are currently 24 reps. Will have branding at the Fall Festival in the form of a table covering. Will explore if t-shirts can be available for this timeframe. Will need volunteers to help out at the table during the Fall Festival. Watermark was suggested as a location for a Neighborhood Rep. Nancy McCord may be able to suggest someone for this role.

A/C Liaison - Chuck Yarbrough: Two meetings were held six applications were received for the first meeting and four for the second meeting. Letter related to the 15-day letter of resolution was returned to sender. Lexi will escalate this to the Columbia Association.

Executive Director/Village Manager - Sharon Cooper-Kerr: Ms. Cooper-Kerr announced the new date for the Wilde Lake Fall Festival will take place on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Wilde Lake Park on Hyla Brook Road. There will be a lot of community involvement including twenty-six organizations tabling at the festival, Wilde Lake High School Bands will perform, there will be several bands including Wilde Lake High School alumni, a magician, face painting, moon bounces and food trucks. Board members were encouraged to spread the word about this fun community event. The attendees were invited to attend with their family and friends and spread the word. Many events and activities are occurring in our community on the same date of Saturday, October 28, 2023. Our joint shredding event with Dorsey's Search, Harper's Choice, Town Center will take place on October 28, 2023, at the Faulkner Ridge Neighborhood Center. On that same day HC DrugFree will hold their semi-annual Medication & Sharps Disposal Drive-Thru event here at the Wilde Lake Village Center. And later in the day the Wilde Lake Community Association will host a Halloween party at Slayton House. Also, Wilde Lake High School's Homecoming celebration will be held this weekend with a parade and football game occurring on October 28th.

The Wilde Lake Community Association has been asked to participate in the Hispanic Fun Night at the Wilde Lake High School on October 11, 2023. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet with families and highlight the Fall Festival. The fall festival flyer will be translated to Spanish language.

Ms. Cooper-Kerr mentioned building repairs identified during the building inspection with the Columbia Association have commenced. She also announced the resignation of Dale

Wasmus, Program Administrative Assistant and Board Secretary received earlier today which is effective immediately.

Chairman's Report – Kevin McAiley – Mr. McAiley reminded everyone to attend the Wilde Lake Fall Festival on October 14th.

Mr. McAiley called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Horn moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. Mr. Yarbrough seconded the motion. All in favor.