



**Wilde Lake Village Board Meeting Minutes  
December 4, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER:** A hybrid meeting of the Wilde Lake Board was called to order by Tina Horn, Vice Chair; at 6:30 p.m. Members present were Kevin McAliley, Chair, Tina Horn, Vice 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:** *Barnabus Uba Shakur, Managing Owner, Foot Soldiers; Dr. Jeff Freedhoffer and Dr. Tushar Sura, Wilde Lake High School Robotics Club; and Dr. Terri Hill, Maryland State Delegate.*

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** *Mr. Yarbrough made a motion to approve the agenda with amendments to move the Club Wilde Lake discussion to earlier in the agenda and add a presentation by Wilde Lake CARES grant application to the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Mr. Cogdell seconded the motion. All in favor.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Mr. Yarbrough made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 2, 2023 with minor edits. Ms. Walters-Smith seconded the motion. All in favor.*

**RESIDENT SPEAKOUT:** No one provided comments during resident speakout.

**COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION UPDATE:** Robin Stimson, Community Engagement Manager, Columbia Association was unable to attend.

**Presentation: Youth Advocacy Initiative – Club Wilde.** Mr. Barnabus Uba Shakur provided an update on Club Wilde Lake, a program being developed to provide resources and assistance to teenagers in the Wilde Lake community who are not involved in activities. Mr. Shakur mentioned the need to hire a program manager who could build out and manage this program for a period of 25 hours per week. Since October 2023, the group of up to twenty-five youth have met after school at Slayton House on Wednesdays. Mr. Shakur has provided dinner at these sessions and has led a facilitated discussion with the teens to find out more about their interests and needs. Mr. Shakur led the group on a tour of the Wilde Lake Village Center and facilitated meetings with the owners and managers of the businesses in the Village Center which provided an opportunity for the teens and merchants to converse about their

challenges and needs. Ms. Horn offered to assist with asks to the food merchants in the village for their support in providing food for this initiative on a quarterly basis. Mr. Shakur discussed the possibility of after-school jobs and internships for the students. Mr. Santos shared the ongoing need for lifeguards at the neighborhood pools and shared these opportunities with the group.

**Wilde Lake High School Robotics Club** – Drs. Tushar Sura and Jeff Fredhoffer presented the need for funding to help support the Robotics Club, which includes fourteen students. A \$500 donation will allow the group to purchase a computer and needed supplies. The group plans to participate in technology challenges this school year. **Mr. Yarbrough made a motion to approve the donation request which was seconded by Ms. Walters-Smith. All in favor.**

Wilde Lake CARES – Susan Tucker gave an update on the Bird Walk that occurred on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The walk was led by Kurt Schwartz and fifteen people participated. Ms. Tucker mentioned twenty-six bird species were identified during the walk, including varieties not seen previously. She also shared the successes of the joint projects held among the CARES groups this year including the neighborhood yard tours. The CARES groups are planning a shrub exchange in 2024 and would like to apply for a grant that will help fund giving new shrubs to residents who remove an invasive plant. The Wilde Lake CARES group would like to apply and have the Wilde Lake Community Association serve as the grant sponsor/fiscal agent. The grant may be awarded to a 501(C)(4) organization. If awarded the Columbia Association will match the grant. Howard Community College has approved the use of their parking lot for the plant distribution. The Wilde Lake CARES group will complete the application and reports as required. **Mr. Cogdell made a motion for Wilde Lake Community Association to serve as the fiscal agent for the grant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Yarbrough. All in favor.**

**Update: Proposed Legislation Columbia Association Annual Charge** – Delegate Terri Hill discussed her proposed bill to be introduced during the upcoming Maryland General Assembly legislative session. Delegate Hill mentioned the bill is undergoing language changes at this time. The purpose of the bill is to: 1) provide all the rights and privileges to tenants that live in properties that are subject to the Columbia Association lien and 2) provide tax credit to those who pay all or a portion of that assessment/lien. Owners will need to notify their tenants if any portion of their rent is used toward the Columbia Association lien. The bill will serve as a vehicle which will require landlords to disclose this fact to their tenants.

## **REPORTS**

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

Mr. Santos shared that the Columbia Association Board will have a meeting in December. The focus is on developing the annual budget. The search for a new President and CEO is underway. Mr. Santos also mentioned the need for lifeguards and gave a reminder about Winter Fest which will be held at the Columbia Lakefront on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **COMMITTEES:**

**Education - Tina Horn, Chair:** Ms. Horn attended the *Play that Goes Wrong* presented by the Wilde Lake High School Drama department and spoke highly of the students and the performance.

**Health and Wellness – Kondi Walters-Smith, Chair:** Ms. Walters-Smith attended the Opioid Operation Command Center’s Town Hall on November 30<sup>th</sup> by the Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center. The Town Hall is being held in all 24 Maryland counties. Slayton House was the site for Howard County’s Town Hall that evening. Sixty people from the community attended and shared information on how they have been impacted by opioid addiction and overdose. Dr. Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive, Emily Keller, Secretary of Opioid Response and Dr. Maura Rossman attended and served on the panel.

**Neighborhood Reps - Chuck Yarbrough:** Mr. Yarbrough mentioned that there are currently twenty-six neighborhood reps on the roster. A survey is being conducted to get feedback from the representatives regarding activities and programs they would like to see featured in the Wilde Lake community.

**A/C Liaison - Chuck Yarbrough:** Mr. Yarbrough shared the Committee will continue to meet on Tuesdays in 2024.

**Executive Director/Village Manager - Sharon Cooper-Kerr: Youth Advocacy** – Ms. Cooper-Kerr discussed meetings she attended earlier in the day with the Village Center merchants and members of the Howard County Economic Development team including Chief Executive Officer, Jennifer Jones and County Council member Deb Jung and their team. Greg Reed, Vice President of Acquisitions and Development for the Mid-Atlantic region, Kimco Realty also attended the meetings. The group met with the businesses individually. The meetings were quite productive and provided information and resources to seven merchants in the village center. The meetings were also conducted last month, and plans are being made to meet with the remaining Village merchants that could not meet due to conflicts. Ms. Cooper-

Kerr also provided an update on the need for staffing, background checks, parental permission, and the need for a 501(c)(3) charitable partner for Club Wilde Lake. Mr. Santos suggested a study to find out what is required to form a 501(c)(3) arm at the Wilde Lake Community Association for the purpose of the teen mentoring/advocacy program. Mr. Cogdell shared his experience visiting the village merchants with the teens earlier.

**Chairman's Report – Kevin McAiley:** Mr. McAiley shared the County Budget Night is scheduled for Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. He shared it would be important for members of the community to speak about the need for funding for Club Wilde Lake. Mr. Cogdell indicated he would participate and speak about the need.

Ms. Horn called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 pm. Ms. Walters-Smith moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Cogdell seconded the motion. All in favor.