



**Wilde Lake Village Board Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: A hybrid meeting of the Wilde Lake Village Board was called to order by Kevin McAliley, Chair, at 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair: Kevin McAliley, **Vice Chair:** Claudia Allen, Brandon Cogdell, Bill Santos, Kondi Walters-Smith, **Executive Director/Village Manager:** Sharon Cooper-Kerr

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: Tracy Broccolino, Peter Brunner, Bess Caplan, Jessamine DuVall, Eric England, John McDermont, Greg Reed, Robin Stimson, and Margaret Yarbrough

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *Mr. Santos requested adding ten minutes for the Columbia Council representative's update. Mr. Cogdell made a motion to adopt the amended agenda. The motion was seconded. All in favor. None Opposed. Motion carried.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *The minutes of the February 3, 2025 meeting were approved.*

Resident Speakout: None

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Donation Requests:

- Wilde Lake CARES, Bess Caplan, Chair – Ms. Caplan attended the meeting to request \$550 to purchase plants to give away to those who vote in person on Election Day, during the Wilde Lake election. Previously, the plants were purchased from Howard EcoWorks, which will continue. The donation would allow native plants to be purchased, and given to all in person voters (while supplies last) as a “thank you,” and as an opportunity to add native plants to our village landscape.
- Wilde Lake High School After Prom, Margaret Yarbrough, WLHS PTA – Ms. Yarbrough spoke on behalf of the Wilde Lake High School PTSA about the After Prom event to request \$500 to fund the After Prom event. Approximately two hundred students attend the event each year. The ticket price for After Prom tickets in 2024 was \$25. The committee would like to reduce the price to \$20 this year to make the event more accessible. The committee encourages all of the villages where Wilde Lake students reside to support this event.
- The Village in Howard County – Peter Brunner. The Village in Howard County is a group of about four hundred villages nationwide, whose purpose is to enable seniors to remain active in the community, while remaining in their own homes. There are about 181 members, and twenty of them are Wilde Lake residents. Mr. Brunner is requesting \$500 from the Board to enlist paid support to manage volunteer activity.
- Village Website Project, Jessamine DuVall, Executive Director, Columbia Housing Center – Ms. DuVall requested both funds and feedback on the village website project from the Board. Founded

in 2017, with a mission to champion and sustain thriving integrated neighborhoods in Columbia. They can supply data indicating Columbia is trending towards segregation, and one of the ways to help preserve integration is through decision making on where to live in Howard County. They currently have funds to build the website and are looking for ways to enhance it. Ms. DuVall is requesting sponsorship from the Board to maintain and improve the website once it's operational, with no dollar amount given. Her main goal is marketing the site and find neighborhood ambassadors to help it grow.

Mr. McAliley asked Ms. Cooper-Kerr for an update on the Donations line in the FY2025 budget. Ms. Cooper-Kerr replied that \$3,500 had been allocated for donations in the budget, \$2,500 was spent on donations, \$1,000 was remaining for donations for this fiscal year, with additional donation requests anticipated.

Ms. Allen stated this is an especially important mission for the Board to financially support the seniors to continue living independently in their homes. ***Ms. Allen made a motion to grant \$250 each to Wilde Lake CARES, Wilde Lake High School After Prom, and the Village in Howard County. The motion was seconded. All in favor. None Opposed. Motion carried.***

Wilde Lake Representative to the Columbia Association Board of Directors – Bill Santos - Mr. Santos stated at the last meeting held on February 27th finalized the FY 2026 budgets, enabling the organization to complete the remaining work needed to begin the new fiscal year. The four-hour meeting included an extensive resident speakout session including twenty speakers addressing the zoning bill which was up to vote at the County Council regarding the WR Grace project. The Village Managers shared concerns about the proposed restructuring of how the community buildings located in the villages are managed. Mr. Santos shared two possible scenarios that are being explored: 1) Columbia Association would operate all building, rent the spaces, collect rental payments, place in a pool and redistribute to the Villages and 2) the creation of a centralized booking system by the Columbia Association to book all Village Center spaces via an online a presence. Columbia Association's budget and rate cap were approved for Fiscal Year 2026. Lynn Schwartz has retired. Hunter Kraus is the new Senior Internal Auditor.

Columbia Association Update: Robin Stimson, Community Engagement Manager – Ms. Stimson provided an update as follows:

- The association will hold a book donation drive in March through a partnership with Books for Life, by collecting gently used books from March 10th to March 24th. The books will be collected at: CA Gyms, CA Headquarters, and the Long Reach Tennis Club.
- February's Blood Drive – The drive was successful partnering with CareFirst BlueCross Blue Shield and the American Red Cross Howard County on Valentine's Day, with a theme of showing love to your community.
- Mental Health Movie Event – CA will be hosting a mental health movie event on May 13th, hosted at the Columbia Art Center, will feature a mental health related film, followed by a panel discussion, to ask questions, and connect with resources in the area.
- Ms. Stimson read a statement from the Columbia Association with regard to disseminating security camera footage. So far there has been only one situation where this has arisen when an alleged crime had been committed, and a police investigation ensued. The Columbia Association requires a subpoena for the footage but may share with police when there is a time sensitive investigation. CA does not share with the public under any circumstances, as it could lead to

requests for video in connection with a civil lawsuit. In that case we would not produce without a subpoena.

Community Forum on Public Safety and Well Being

- Kimco, John McDermott, Wilde Lake Village Center Property Manager – Mr. McDermott provided information and answered questions regarding the use of cameras on the property. Three security cameras are installed at the center, and their policies align closely with the CA statement read by Ms. Stimson regarding disseminating video footage to police during an active crime investigation or via court subpoena. Kimco's policy as stated by Mr. McDermott is: *"The only people who have access to those cameras are Securitas, which is the company who actually does the installation of cameras in Kimco properties. No footage is shared with anyone unless subpoenaed. It is not available online for anyone to look at it."* Mr. McDermott shared the cameras have been helpful in instances of assaults and hit-and-run incidents where footage has been used to ensure the safety of the centers, and tenants. A discussion followed regarding the unwelcoming blue lights on the cameras. Per Mr. McAliley, research will be conducted by John McDermott and Greg Reed where there are cameras with blue lights in other Villages and if the blue lights could be removed. Mr. McDermott and Mr. Reed shared they would return to the Board with the results of this research.
- Howard County Police Officer, Eric England, Wilde Lake Village Community Liaison HoCo Police – Officer England shared updated data with the Board, stating the department received sixty-eight calls in January from Wilde Lake, and seventy-three calls in February, and most of those calls came from areas within Wilde Lake Village Center. The property areas were CA, Kimco, and CVS, and the highest call volume handled in the area are accidents. Disorderly conduct is second, to include noise complaints. The call volume will increase as the weather gets warmer.
- Community Action Council of Howard County, MD, Tracy Broccolino, President – Ms. Broccolino shared organizational history with the Board, outlining a number of resources for community members. CAC is celebrating their 60th year in Howard County. They are here to meet community needs in five main service areas: housing assistance program, energy assistance, weatherization, SNAP application, and Howard County Food Bank in multiple partner pantries. One of the resources discussed included members without access to reliable transportation. Neighbor Ride is also available providing HoCo residents 60-years and older the option to schedule free rides with trained volunteer drivers.

REPORTS

Executive Director/Village Manager – Ms. Cooper-Kerr thanked everyone for attending, and stated the following:

- Running Brook Neighborhood Center renovation is complete. Creative Little Minds, III will take occupancy of the facility this week.
- The Concert presented by Merriweather Arts Culture Center featuring award winning musician, Kyshona was a resounding success! The event was sponsored by Compass Realty, the Wilde Lake Community Association, and other partners.
- The Blossoms of Hope exhibit at Slayton House opens on March 4th. We are happy to partner with Blossoms of Hope to help celebrate their 20th anniversary serving Howard County. The art featured in the Bernice Kish Gallery is that of members of the Baltimore Watercolor Society. Ms. Cooper-Kerr has served on the Blossoms of Hope 20th Anniversary Art Show and Reception

committees for the past two years in the lead up to this great milestone celebration. We will hold an opening reception on Sunday, March 9th at 3:00 pm at Slayton House and the Blossoms of Hope Reception will be held on March 13th at Howard Community College's Horowitz Center.

- Facility Management is being discussed at the Columbia Association Board level. The Village Managers attended last Thursday's Board meeting to express concern about the possible loss of management of the community center buildings. The Village Managers also continue to converse with Columbia Association management about the Village Management contract.
- Attended a community roundtable with Howard County government and community partners who provide activities for youth regarding the recent incidents outside the mall and in the community. The purpose of the roundtable was to identify solutions for helping our youth and prevent crime. And attended the County Executive's press conference on public safety.
- The Earth Day Festival is scheduled for April 26th and will be held in conjunction with the Wilde Lake Village election.
- Reminded the community of the application deadline for the Wilde Lake Village Board and Columbia Council is Wednesday, March 5th at 5:00 pm.

Chairman's Message – Mr. McAliley shared that he attended an event at the new Howard Community College Athletic complex where a special reception, hosted by the College and Visit Howard County, and the women's and men's basketball games were held. There is an opportunity for Wilde Lake Community Association to form a greater relationship with the college and promote our activities to the students and community at the college. Attended a news conference with community partners including the Superintendent of Howard County Public Schools who thanked the Wilde lake Community Association for our work with the youth in our community. Several donors from Merriweather attended the concert with Kyshona. The Merriweather Arts and Culture Center shared the possibility of outdoor concerts at the Slayton House amphitheater. Mr. McAliley mentioned the need for volunteers to staff a bike corral at Slayton House on Election Day and the Earth Day Festival on April 26th. Also occurring on April 26th is HC Drug Free's Drug Take Back Day. This will be a busy day in the Village of Wilde Lake. The build out of the Faulkner Ridge Early Childhood Center is slated to begin 2027. There are concerns about the proposed Head Start building and whether or not it will be a part of the building design at the time of construction. The renovation for the Bryant Woods Elementary School is being proposed for 2031.

ADJOURNMENT –

Ms. Allen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. The motion was seconded. All in favor. None Opposed. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING – Monday, March 17, 2025 at 6:30 pm