

Pimlico Community Development Authority
Meeting Summary
February 5, 2019
Pimlico Racetrack, 5201 Park Heights Avenue

PCDA Members In Attendance: Laurie Feinberg, Del. Tony Bridges, Gloria Cinquegrani, Nechama Cox, Ramsey Harris, Mereida Goodman, R. Anthony Mills, Eric Lee

Absent: Senator Antonio Hayes, Leslie McCuaig, Marc Broady, John Henderson, Senator Jill Carter, Del. Mosby

Role of the Pimlico Community Development Authority (PCDA)

PCDA serves an advisory role in determining funding allocations for Local Impact Aid funding. PCDA has the responsibility to advise the Mayor on priorities and the final funding decisions are part of the City budget approval by the Mayor and City Council.

Presentation

Sara Paraniham, Chief of Comprehensive Planning, shared the role of PCDA and the [FY20 draft spending plan](#), which is a multi-year spending plan. Slots funding amounts included in the spending plans are estimates of the revenue to be received. The estimated total in FY20 is \$8,000,000: Park Heights (85%) \$6,800,000; 1 Mile Radius (15%) \$1,200,000. Sara also shared information about the [Neighborhood Initiative Competitive Grants](#). Large grants (\$2,500 - \$30,000) are due March 1 and small grants (less than \$2,500) are submitted on a rolling basis.

Next steps include:

- Deadline to submit comments on FY20 draft spending plan (February 15)
- Presentation of PCDA recommendations on the draft spending plan and release of CC Jackson Final Draft plan by Recreation and Parks (February 27)
- Release FINAL Spending Plan April

Questions and Comments

- Beverly Brown from the Pimlico Community Association shared Councilman Schleifer's message from the previous meeting about the need for more funding for communities that surround the racetrack. Her concerns include 5100 Pembridge, and the poor condition of sidewalks making them dangerous and overgrown trees. Shared observations from January 31st community walk. 5100 Pembridge is a vacant owned by the Mayor and City Council and the City received possession around 2005. There are problems with plants and insects and also with dumping on the Spaulding Avenue side. The sidewalks are dangerous and in poor condition. There are no parking signs posted but cars park there anyway. It was suggested that flowerpots could help with parking but those could become trash cans. She hopes PCDA will help with sidewalks.
- Elenor Askins McGee is a Senior Liaison from the Pimlico Community Association. She shared that 3000 block of Spaulding has problems, the curbs are messed up, and the City dug a big hole

and now in the alley there are issues with rats. The hole in the alley is still open (been open for 1.5 years). There are homes on that block where the grass and ivy have taken over the house like the house at 3029 Spaulding, that has a roof that has dropped in. There are 2 houses that have caught fire and nothing has been done. Why do we homeowners have to pay for what the City did to the alley? In the corner lot house on 3029 Spaulding the bricks are falling off into the alley where kids are running into; the City opened the hole and left bricks in the alley and now garbage trucks can't come into the alley and have to walk to the end of the alley to get trash. If trash cans don't have wheels it won't get dumped. We have an apartment building (3030 Spaulding) where the yard is full with trash, sitting on the parking lot. Manna Bible adopted a lot right behind the 5100 block of Park Heights-fixing trees and maintaining lots. Our blocks are made of seniors and we invite the young people but we want responsible young people.

- Mr. Green: Been in the neighborhood since 1969. Familiar with Racetrack Impact Funds from when money went directly to Community Associations. Pimlico local impact aid seems like a gift being given when that money was for the impacted communities surrounding the track. It wasn't aid, it was compensation. The Park Heights Master Plan sounds like something the City is in charge of in order to improve the Park Heights community, with \$8M in one year. We can see the impact of community development in Canton and Highlandtown and if you were black you didn't want to be in Highlandtown at night and kind of didn't want to be there in the daytime. Eastern Ave is now Spanish town with Spanish speaking people and many of them may not be citizens. He worked at the racetrack for 32 years and lived here for 50 years. You're talking about the master plan since 2006. In Highlandtown there are decks on the roofs and it doesn't look like this. Neighborhood groups used to have a say-GED classes, help our young people to know that they are human; drug culture has taken over. The Mayor and City Council are committing a crime as a sanctuary city, welcoming city.
 - Clarification about VLT/slots funding from Sara Paranilam: The City used to receive Racetrack Impact Funds but hasn't received them for some time. When gaming was approved in Maryland, legislation provided that Video Lottery Terminal revenue from across the state that comes to Baltimore City to be spent within the Pimlico area. Before the Mayor can spend VLT funding, a draft plan has to be presented and PCDA advises the Mayor before its finalized. Within the spending plan there are Neighborhood Initiative Competitive Grants, funding for human services, community schools, etc. and new activities such as Langston Hughes, which is proposed for the 1st time for FY20.
- Pastor Gaines has a church on Belvedere and Palmer. It's obvious that a number of residents, particularly those near the racetrack don't understand how the funds are being spent. Need to come up with a plan to address community issues. Pastor Gaines proposed a follow-up meeting on February 12th to discuss the PCDA spending plan and community issues with City agencies such as DPW and DOT.
- Patrick Henderson shared about an after school program and other positive things happening in Liberty Wabash area. Excited about the new allocation – community has raised concerns for years about how Liberty Wabash wasn't getting enough funds. Happy to see the Ambassador getting funds. Asked about using funds on south side of Liberty Heights Avenue. (Law Department has determined that funds can be used on both sides of Liberty Heights Avenue.) Inquired about using funds for Liberty Elementary. (Property is a block or two south of Liberty Heights Avenue and therefore not eligible.) Thanked former PCDA Chair, Tom Stosur.

Looking forward to meeting the new Director. Thankful for Dolfield improvements -trash cans, planters, new signage and we'll get new sidewalks. Been through a lot to get through it, but persistence is the key. Chad Hayes has been tremendous and Healthy Neighborhoods has been an asset. Expecting award for community resource center; very excited about it. Need CHIMES to clean up the trash; all this trash. Would like this to be ongoing.

- Clarified that the award is for CHIMES, not the Community Resource Center.
- Are sidewalks eligible for funding? Sidewalks: City is supposed to do it but they say homeowners must pay for it. How does this work?
 - DOT will make the improvements but they will send you a bill, sidewalks are property owner responsibilities; neighborhood can help the homeowner mitigate that expense.
- Midnight basketball. Children out at midnight playing basketball; not just something shiny, but we need businesses so young people can be employed. Park Heights used to be a business district where you could find anything from a suit to a cake; now nothing but bars, fried chicken, and beauty salons. There can be no community services without businesses. What is the difference between the funds for the impact and the money that comes from the city for the master plan they've been talking about forever?
- Marcus Pollock of PHR. Talked about the need for economic development opportunities and this is part of his responsibility as ED of PHR. He hears time and time again about dumping, part is DPW and part is citizen responsibility. He remembers when people would sweep and clean their gutters. Steven Johnson, from Park Heights Terrace (off Park Heights Ave), is an example of the kind of people we should be looking for. He took responsibility for a vacant lot. As the Community Association, he worked to clean it up and create a sign so people know who they are. PHR can take the greater role in helping DPW do what it cannot do. He is going to ask for a piece of money to expand work of a team that is seasonal today, but with right equipment and the right support, could do a better job. He's working hand in hand with Chalmers/DPW to do a better job and even though you might not have money in your pocket, you don't have to be dirty, so let's work to with PHR to get cleaned up.
- Has something changed? We look forward to working with PHR. It's been years and years and years and nothing changes. Upper PH gets money.
- Cherring Spence of Parklane. We recently expanded our borders. Our new borders are from Greenspring to Reisterstown Rd and Coldspring to Woodland Ave. This section is not covered by neighborhood associations, but was covered years ago. The dumping that happens on Woodland Avenue is horrendous, and it happens over, over, over again, and there is nothing done except people gripe about it every day. She suggested that "people just show up and clean up" like a "flash mob". Another suggestion to pass along to DPW, that we go back to the old schedule of trash pickup. This issue did not exist until we gave up that extra day of trash pickup.

She spoke about how she is very appreciative of the PCDA Neighborhood Initiative Competitive grant program-Parklane has been blessed. There is another recreation center outside of CC Jackson and it is in desperate need of help, it needs repairs and equipment. Put in for a grant and received funding. Funding has gone a long way and hoping to do more there and more in the community.

- Trying to figure out this grant. Does everybody get to apply for this? How do we get a car in our community? How did they get a \$100,000 for a vehicle? Mayor gave it to them. Frustrated that she submits proposals, but they get turned down.
- Is there ever an exception for 3 grants or 35,000?
 - Not currently. We are seeing how it works for a few years without changing that. Right now the same limit is being proposed for next year. If you have specific feedback on this, please submit comments.
- What happens with the increase in gambling – off track betting?
 - These funds are limited to slots machine revenue.
- Marcus Pollock of PHR. Sharing good news - Civic Works and PHR are about to launch a partnership that will lead to youth development in construction and healthcare industries with \$1.1M for Park Heights. This meets the vision that PHR had to provide opportunities for young people to get good jobs. Thanks to Senator Van Hollen.
- Logan from Pimlico Good Neighbors. Has anyone thought about funding recycling programs? The public should get educated on a regular basis, maybe every 2-3 months, teaching the importance of recycling. Some money should be used to educate the public on a regular basis as to what to recycle. People don't care b/c they haven't been taught to care.
 - Laurie Feinberg shared that the Office of Sustainability just published their new master plan. The Office has been funding young people to help with environmental projects. Two young women won an award for the Styrofoam ban (2020 there won't be any allowed). Those 2 young women were seniors in Baltimore City High Schools and they really ran that program. Now, the Office is working on a program about food waste. Please encourage everyone to take the DPW survey and share their feedback about trash and recycling issues.