

Long Branch Partners Meeting Agenda March 19, 2025

3:30 to 4:30

Present: Bruce Baker, Kent Sovine, Agar Mbianda, Annmarie Hart-Bookbinder, Cara Honzak, Caty Angel, Cristina Sasaki, Febe Huezo, Kara Lanahan, Lisa Buttner, Maureen Larenas, Melissa Ferguson, Randi Drewry, Vanesa Pinto, Tim Hoang, Seble Seyoum, and Danielle Wolfe

Purpose of Long Branch Partners Meetings: To create a common space in which local agencies and organizations working in Long Branch area can meet to share information, seek opportunities for collaboration, and begin to develop a sense of belonging to a network

Welcome and Introductions (10 minutes)

Emergency Preparedness Committee (15 minutes)

Long Branch Participation in County COAD

- There was an idea to create this committee after the apartment fire in 2016.
- We need to update our plan on how Long Branch should respond in emergencies
- We used it for 2 local fires
- Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) is reconvening. All they need are 2 points of contact for our group
- The original plan was created 7 years ago. Once the lead contact is notified by the county of the emergency in our area, the contact person contacts our team to help the county respond to it with the Office of Emergency Management.
- To clarify, the County takes care of the first responder stuff. We would help with immediate recovery. For example, gathering intake with families who are displaced by a fire.

- Kent: Is this Long Branch/Takoma Park because you mentioned Carroll Ave Bruce: Yes, and no. TP also has its own Emergency Preparedness Committee. Cara: Cara has been appointed to the emergency preparedness group for the City. There was a small fire in one of the buildings in her area 2 years ago. There was basically no response. It was telling of what was not in place. She is willing to share that story too.
- Maureen: Would like to know Christopher Burt's (Emergency person for HHS) guidance. When does the county respond? When do we respond?
- Caty: Has been working closely with HHS. There are some emergency supplies in the closet at the Long Branch Community Center. She works closely with Christopher (mentioned above) and Phillip. She was also part of the emergency response team with HHS in the past. She would be willing to participate.
- Lisa: What stood out to her from the fire was the need for multilingual folks to engage and effectively understand what the community needs. People just donate without knowing what is needed. She thinks there are a number of partners here who can help with this. What is the nature of the coordination? Do we clearly understand our greatest strengths and how to put those together in the moment?
- Bruce: **DECISION:** Invite Chris Burt to the next meeting. We can propose scenarios and see what role that we can play in in those scenarios
- Melissa: We used to have a spreadsheet of contacts for this. This template has a lot of information on it. She also thinks that we should invite Monica Golderberg Bruce: We need to update this spreadsheet constantly.
DECISION: Invite Monica Golderg to the meeting with Chris Burt.

Review Emergency Response Process

Who wants to participate, be the point of contact?

- Randi Drewry- Clifton Park Baptist Church
- Kent Sovine- Executive Director of CHEER
- **DECISION:** Everyone consents to these point of contacts

Long Branch Thrives (ENOUGH Program): (30 minutes)

Overview and update on Phase 1: Children and Youth

- This is being led by Governor Wes Moore's ENOUGH initiative to end childhood poverty
- Ultimately, we are developing a neighborhood plan to improve Long Branch and end childhood poverty. We are also ensuring all Marylanders have all the resources and tools they need to live healthy and successful lives.
- We currently have a planning grant. We are hoping to get an implementation grant.
- Caty: Are we also looking into safety? Mentions the bridge area near the community centers. Kent: Safety is one of the big concerns brought up from our meeting.
- Lisa: Wants to emphasize that this current phase is a planning phase.

Review Vision and Goals Statement (Share in advance)

- Bruce shared the vision and goals statements document in advance to the group
- He goes through the document with the group.
- Caty brings up talking to the Rec Dept about childcare. Have we done that? In Howard County, they do before care from 6:00 am until school starts. They do not do this in Montgomery County though. They might not have money for staffing right now, but it would be great to have in the community. Lisa: Would like to know more about the Howard County model. She would like to know how it works.
- Michelle Ramirez: Shares a link to Columbia Association childcare <https://columbiaassociation.org/community-program/kids/before-after-school-care/>
- Maureen Larenas: Can we take advantage of what has been done? She has some information already. This will give us some ideas to not reinvent the wheel. Bruce: We are using research consultants from Sharp Insight to craft the report.: Maureen will send an email to Bruce to share with the research team
- Randi: Montgomery Parks came to one of their events. She can send the report to Bruce
- Cristina: Talks about the parks projects and the Long Branch Parks Initiative.

- Lisa: Parks has been a fantastic partner over several years to collect and solicit information in a variety of ways. Wants to know the timeline for implementation. Can it also be implemented into the ENOUGH planning initiative? We can inform the public about this timeline. Cristina: The sector plan will be approved by the end of 2027. It will have to be vetted by the County Council. Some projects are ahead of the sector plan and some are not. **ACTION:** Cristina can talk to Cristie who is leading the Long Branch Parks Initiative to see if she can come to a future session on the plans
- Melissa Ferguson: Regarding before & after care, I may have missed it, but are people looking for care they pay for, or free care (via vouchers or grants)? If paid, there are several local businesses that operate on MCPS sites as approved child care providers (e.g., Kids After Hours). They might also provide child care during some breaks/school cancelations.----Or sliding scale - from free (vouchers, grants) to pay what you can??
- Kara Lanaham: Will open a park when the Purple Line opens in 2027. Would like to preview the park at a Long Branch Partners Meeting. She has an initial sense of what the community wants, but would like to show more graphics to the community to make sure that this is what the community wants. She would like to know how to best engage the entire community.
- Michelle Ramirez: the project manager for Long Branch Local would also like to show how things are moving along, so maybe we can schedule time on a future call to present information on both parks
- Cara: Kara and Cristina, I would like to also invite you to engage with me as representative for City of TP for the northern section of parks. Ward 5
Carah@takomaparkmd.go

Assets Questions Online Survey

Closing (5 minutes)

Confirm Next Meeting April 16?

- Next meeting will be on April 16th, from 3:30-4:30 PM via Zoom

