

## Greater Colesville Citizens Association

Dec 14, 2021

**Attendees:** Dan Wilhelm, Marguerite Raaen, Noel , Bob Peters, Pat Corey, Ed Weiler, Mark Pankow, Ben Eng, Dr. Idong Gibson, Sharon Brown, Karlyn Walker, Evelyn Solar-Hamilton, Chris Naughton

Again, trying to get meeting recorded using zoom capabilities.

**Approval of Minutes:** Added an attendee and approved.

**Approval of treasurers Report:** Approved without any change. Dan noted large expenses with printing the Clarion and Sign damages. Also noted membership and contributions were very good. The sign repair cost was \$4276 plus our \$500. A lot of damage was done to the sign. Sign was due to be finished soon.

**Community Issues:** Paint Branch Farms traffic and illegal exhaust pipe noise at 2AM on Fairland Road was brought up as well as speeding on Randolph Road and lack of police to respond. However, with understaffing being a problem different solutions are being discussed to resolve it. Even trying to get laws changed. Task force is being requested, since car inspection will not catch or address these issues.

**ECCAB:** Discussed Thrive general plan and how affordable housing could be addressed by adding duplex and triplex houses to existing structures. Dan plans on writing a response to this proposal to the General Council and wants us to review it. It is not a targeted issues and housing is an area that needs to be addressed and how to address it. Price of homes versus average income is discriminatory and not affordable and wanted to address it with a blanket county wide proposal. Tried elsewhere and it was a disaster. The cost of housing had been affected by being redlined outside Eastern County. Discussed again how this has been an issue for decades. Redevelopment must be targeted to area around FDA and ViVa White Oak Town Center. Carr, JBG, Boston Properties and Contee need to know about it for interest to occur delayed by infrastructure needs and financial costs upwards of \$3 billion dollars. Need assurances of a long term ROI. Impact tax rollback on roads and infrastructure will help. Need to promote East County as an opportunity for these firms to commit and focus on this area as an untapped market. Labquest has helped to get all of this started for decades now.

Transportation was discussed on US29 in dedicated lanes and BRT for New Hampshire Ave and looking at restructuring bus services. Also looking at upgrading Old Columbia Pike from Stewart Lane to Cherry Hill Road which addresses old abandoned bridge which does not accomplish must traffic diversion and a much less expensive and better solution is go through Viva White Oak and Lockwood Drive to come out at the White Oak Shopping Center.

A consultant provided an economic report to the Council on how the county has failed to capture its fair share of economic development and job growth. Annual loss of \$37 Million dollars per year with a cumulative impact of between \$250 and \$500 million. County lost jobs while the rest of Maryland and suburbs gained anywhere from 6% up to and over 20%. A great deal of the reason was the delay of approval of development compared to any other local areas. On a whole it takes years in Montgomery

County by MCPPC for approval versus days in other local suburbs exacerbated by the demand for unnecessary roads in development plans. Developers are fleeing area due to this and Council has proposed shortening this process but little seems to getting done or hearing the message. Dan is writing this up in the Clarion. Discussed the Council may becoming aware of the problem and this is a first step, but maybe try to get an article in the Washington Post as well.

**Safety Report:** Fairland and Randolph and speeding and Peter Myo Khin and Tom Hucker are looking at speed cameras because of fatal accidents Also on Dec 13<sup>th</sup> a police officer asked for backup and gunfire took place. Another incident of a gun recovery and suspect had stolen tags. Stabbing in downtown Silver Spring and three bank robberies also took place in the county. A murder took place with an outstanding warrant for an arrest for known man. The Silver Spring downtown area needs enough police for safety and that does affect the outer suburban areas which drives crime out of the city.

**Redistricting Maps were approved:** One map of the East County including Leisure World which did not make anyone happy, but 150,000 population was reasoning. Four Corners is in with the city of Silver Spring. This will create a number of candidates to run for office and we should look at having forums in the March timeframe. Only one is known as more qualified.

The deer hunters have been successful on both sides of New Hampshire. Numbers were touted, but we know that is like how big the fish that was caught was. The new development on Randolph Road has also caused deer to relocate. We need the community to understand and approve of culling because of car accidents, erosion and starvation caused by too many deer. Pilgrim Hill may not be doing culling this year.

**New Business:** Discussed deadlines for advertisements for the Clarion and deadline. And a final request was made for a very happy next meeting.