

Greater Colesville Citizens Association

Jan. 11, 2021 Meeting

Attendees: Dan Wilhelm, Marguerite Raaen, Noel Gregos, Pat Corey, Ed Weiler, Mark Pankow, Ben Eng, Idong Gibson, Sharon Brown, Karlyn Walker, Bill Backoff, Barbara Buchanan, Cate Corey, Chris Naughton, Deb Klineberg, Peter Myo Khin, Heather Phelps

Approval of Minutes: Added an attendee and approved.

Approval of Treasurers Report: Accepted without any change. Noel noted a large payment for sign damage at \$4796.00 and a balance of \$16,728.00. Dan wanted to do an off line discussion on Clarion mailer software issue and pricing for needed new software.

Community Issues: None discussed.

ECCAB: Discussed Thrive general plan and how affordable housing could be addressed by converting existing structures to duplex and triplex houses. The communities throughout the county have opposed this proposal. Dan wrote a response opposing this proposal to the General Council and a suggestion to emphasize that the \$100,000 of additional fees is a major deterrent to building affordable housing. Discussed again how this has been an issue for decades.

41 acres are to be made available at White Oak Research Center. The best proposed plans under consideration are for ball fields on the PG County portion while the Montgomery portion be utilized for education facilities with a Montgomery College Campus and an elementary and middle school. OMB needs to approve the transfer of the property and is evaluating an environmental cleanup that took place for burn areas and the chemicals used for fire suppression. If a clean-up is required it will take about two years. GSA would have up to five year to complete the disposal process.

A question was addressed about 12 acres of land of the Hollywood Branch of the Northwest Branch that mainly consists of stream bed and is only being reassigned to the Parks Department

Discussions on the expansion of Page elementary school in which the Planning Board hearing favored extending two sides of the school with two story classrooms and with an inner court yard providing eleven more classrooms. Egress and ingress to the school still needs to be addressed with some traffic solutions. It was also mentioned that Stonegate and Burnt Mills elementary schools were also looking at moderatizations or rebuilds.

Safety Report: Arrests were made for the tree top murder. Police returned fire and killed a person on a traffic stop near Howard County border and a traffic fatality on Fairland took place on Dec 19th. There was a shooting in downtown Silver Spring where two victims were shot in the leg. And there was the arrest of two suspects that robbed a number of pharmacies.

Locally gunfire was heard after midnight Dec 18th with the police responding with 4 or 5 cars searching the area without results. It was reported to be heard near Broadmore and Cannon Road Elementary,

but echoes makes it difficult to determine an actual location. It was also reported that with more vehicles being pulled over for traffic stops more guns are being found.

On-going Business: The BRT public meeting on US29 Reliability took place as mostly an answering session about questions that had been submitted. No solution for Flash was discussed, but sidewalks and bikeways were discussed. There was nothing new on the New Hampshire BRT nor were there discussions on the New Hampshire Road upgrade in Hillandale. Old Columbia Pike from Stewart Lane to Cherry Hill Road is still looking at for improvements.

Some \$3B investment is needed to get the Viva White Oak up and running with the return on investment (ROI) i a decade off. Costs are significant because the infrastructure is so badly lagging including sewer replacement . Other area infrastructure needs were also discussed.

A question was asked about county elections and Peter said that he was working with the non-partisan East County Citizens Coalition on several forums which will be either in person, Hybrid or totally virtual for the County executive, Council at Large and council District 5 (east county). The Primaries take place on June 28th and they plan for the forums to take place in May. Peter is President of District 14 Democratic Club. A request was made for recording these sessions and they are looking at how it can be done. It requires a large volume storage device. It was also mentioned that the monthly Jerry Samet discussions were very informative.

The meeting closed with a request to provide assistance for families displaced in Silver Spring. They need clothes and household goods as well as Visa gift cards. Donations can be taken to El Golfo and the Long Branch Library. Dan will distribute this message again.

Submitted by Pat Corey