

Greater Colesville Citizens Association

Nov. 9, 2021

Attendees: Dan Wilhelm, Marguerite Raaen, Noel Gregos , Bob Peters, Pat Corey, Ed Weiler, Peter Myo Khin, Mark Pankow, Marge and Doug Currie, Ben Eng, Dr. Idong Gibson, Sharon Brown, Karlyn Walker, Dave Michaels, Ray Rye, and Evelyn Solar-Hamilton

Approval of Minutes: Added an attendee and approved.

Approval of Treasurers Report: Accepted without any question Dan noted large expenses with printing the Clarion and Sign damages. Cost for the sign repair was due to being unable to find any accident report which required the \$500 deductible being used. Also noted membership and contributions were very good. The sign repair cost was \$4276 plus our \$500.

Discussed the Clarion ads noting they were down.

Three Councilmanic Redistricting Maps were proposed: Each district needs 150,000 \pm 5% population. One map had the East County including Four Corners and Leisure World. Peter discussed that he was prepared to present a different map at the Council hearing on Nov 18th. Peter discussed the changes proposed: move Leisure World to a different district and move Four Corners to district with downtown Silver Spring. To accomplish replacing both it was necessary to add Oak View and Northwest Park to have proper population with common goals. It would be a natural easy change with minimum change in population or demographics.

Further discussion was about how the other districts were created to support most of the needs of the other areas. Each map was redrawn with the goal to provide better representation. Peter will call a Microsoft meeting with Jewru and other Eastern County civic associations, other committees and community activists to go over proposed changes and get their input. The proposed district for the eastern part of the county would now provide better dedicated representation and result in common view of issues. Peter also mentioned the Washington Post is writing about East County and the redistricting.

It was brought to light that this did not help with the alignment of all the other boundaries including the county district, school, and police, congressional and state. This will effect funding of these boundaries, but not any alignment. The makeup of each district needs to include the ethnic mix as well as the population of each district. And, everyone agreed with the proposed new map. East County needs new business and better jobs and approved of Peter recommending it to the council.

Community Issues: None brought up.

ECCAB: Discussed operating budget. Surprised by lack of knowledge of BRT issues and that leaf collection is billed.

Issue of County committing \$8 Million to get 6 acres developed in Burtonsville and the lack of interest because the county insists on commercial development and not residential. Costs are high because of sewer, water, and other issues.

They were also unaware that Montgomery College is looking to build a campus in East County and needs to find the land and space. One issue is an agreement between the local counties that a college cannot be sited on a county border. Suggestion of Viva White Oak as a site could be used as well as the Hoover Site near the Beltway.

CHI is not utilizing all of its facility and suggestions are being proposed for use part of it for the restaurant business worker training; this being a more "organic fit" to our side of the county, versus training for science jobs.

A homeless facility was discussed to open in 2022 to house the entire homeless community in the county. It is supposed to be under construction.

Safety Report: An off duty Montgomery County police officer, Lt. Daniel Jones-Fitz was killed during a traffic stop on Rte. 70. It was noted that police morale is very low and a number of officers that cannot retire are transferring to fire department.

Broadmoor Rd. has a parking problem and is designated emergency route which exacerbates the problem, especially for larger fire vehicle access. Fire issues with basement apartments could result in disaster. It was noted that permitting owners to rent rooms is an issue.

A couple of murders occurred in Silver Spring.

New Business: Not much to discuss.

Attainable housing (duplexes, triplexes and quadplexes) would be allowed with Thrive in single family zones but some language changes by the council are considering it. However, petitions are questioning controls for zoning regulations. Planning Boards proposed recommendations are being strongly opposed by property owners

WSSC water main replacement is still ongoing with surveying in different areas including Meadowood. Discussed how the lack of coordination between all of the utilities is a concern especially as it impacts roads.

New fuel storage tanks are being replaced at the Verizon facility near Giant. There are not any expected issues.

Maryland is targeted to receive \$6 Billion for infrastructure.

A new contractor for Purple Line will restart completion in the spring.

And, a follow up discussion, the Community Center resources at the Good Hope Road is being underutilized. The Center can also be used for concerts.

The Maydale Center has also reopened.