

## Greater Colesville Citizens Association

### Draft Minutes

Dec 14, 2021

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

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

**Approval of Treasurer's Report:** Accepted 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 installed soon.

**Community Issues:** Paint Branch Farms traffic and excessive exhaust tail pipe noise at 2AM on Fairland Road was brought up as well as speeding on Randolph Road and lack of police response. 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 the Council and wants us to review it. It is not targeting the issues. Price of homes versus average income means housing is not affordable for many people. The Planning Board proposal to address it with a county wide zoning change. That has been 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. Developers need assurance 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.

BRT was discussed on US29 – need to be in dedicated lanes. BRT study starting for New Hampshire Ave and another study looking at restructuring bus services. Also looking at upgrading Old Columbia Pike from Stewart Lane to Cherry Hill Road which addresses old abandoned bridge over Paint Brnch.

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 for MCPPC to approve versus days in other local suburbs. That is exacerbated by the demand for unnecessary roads. Developers are fleeing area due to this and Council has proposed shortening this process. Dan is writing this up in the Clarion.

**Safety Report:** Speeding is occurring on Fairland Rd and Randolph Rd Peter Myo Khin and Tom Hucker are looking at speed cameras on Fairland Rd 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.

**Redistricting Maps were approved:** Council approved a map. That map has Leisure World and Four Corners in East County, which did not make anyone happy, but had to achieve a 150,000 population in each district . There will be a big number of candidates to run for this council seat and we should look at having forums in the March timeframe.

**New Business:** Deadline for advertisements for the Clarion is Dec 17.

The bow hunters have been culling deer in a number of areas. Dan reported that 6 deer were killed on his property.

Submitted by Pat Corey