

February 10, 2026 GCCA Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Dan Wilhelm, Marguerite Raaen, Mark Pankow, Ed Weiler, Pat Corey, Ben Eng, Joe Weingarten, Jay Hagler, Deb Gronsky, Ron Leung

February Minutes: The January monthly minutes were approved.

February Treasurer's Report: Mark Pankow reported no dues or donations were made since October and that the current GCCA balance is \$5,317.92. The Notley legal fund has raised over \$52,000 with expenses of \$45,000 and has current balance of \$7,220.86. Discussion followed about the February OZHA meeting being rescheduled to March 16 due to weather and the need for additional legal fund donations. Mark noted that Kyle had sent out a request yesterday. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Notley Road Rezoning. The Notley Road Development Project's third rezoning hearing was cancelled due to weather and rescheduled for March 16.

Viva White Oak. The Viva White Oak Tax Increment Financing (TIF) hearing was held at the end of last month and two council committees met to review TIF concept and maximum bonding limit of \$420M. The recommendation of the two committees next goes to the full council for action/approval. Authority to actually issue bonds will come in phases with the first expected to occur in the fall.

GCCA Business: Marguerite said that nine new members had joined Facebook. She said she was just notified that the website will have a small increase in maintenance cost. Marguerite then asked everyone to confirm that denying commercial adds was the preference for GCCA to enforce. The Board agreed to that request.

East County Citizens Advisory Board. At the February 9 joint committee meeting, state highway officials presented information on multiple issues of interest to ECCAB. He noted that the intersection of MD 108 and New Hampshire Ave is being widened and the speed-hump study on 198 in Burtonsville was ended due to snow plow removing the humps. They believed that they had enough data to analyze the effectiveness. Peter could not hear the presentation well due to the speaker being soft spoken and reading his notes very fast. Both Peter and Dan indicated the meeting was not productive since there are no charts provided. As a result, they did not get much information from the meeting. Peter said that he will talk to Cicero about needing charts and diagrams.

At the February 4 meeting, Dr Bridges of the DHCA discussed what the Department of Health and Human Services was doing regarding the Feds releasing new Medicaid rules. The new rules are very broad with few details, making it difficult to administer them appropriately.

Safety: Ed noted in a discussion with the State DOT representative at the ECCAB meeting that he relayed that Howard County swept the shoulders of the roads which allowed State Police better and safer enforcement in pulling over traffic.

On February 28, 2025 a tractor trailer was involved in a fatal collision on Norbeck Road by running the light and killing the driver in a car. After accident re-construction the truck driver was charged with manslaughter.

Another recent accident resulted in a Silver Spring man charged with manslaughter in a fatal crash on January 14, 2026, at Lockwood Drive and Northwest Drive. He crossed a double yellow line to pass a stopped Metro Bus and hit another car which then crashed into a telephone pole killing the passenger.

The Commander of the 3rd District was informed during the meeting of a shooting at Wheaton High School. A 16-year-old was arrested in possession of a gun after a robbery, assault and double stabbing involving over 20 juveniles on Wayne Ave. and Ramsey Road in downtown Silver Spring.

Ed asked Peter to have Jewru post the District 3 Commander's Zoom conference scheduled for February 18.

New Business: Dan asked Mark to work with Marguerite to send out a notice soliciting candidates to form the committee to nominate candidates for the annual GCCA elections at the May annual meeting. Marguerite will notify members that elections are open and direct any interested parties to contact Mark. Mark will also check with the church venue to schedule the mid-May meeting.

Regarding the publishing of a Clarion before the May meeting, the cost of printing and mailing was discussed. It was suggested that a post card could be mailed directing everyone and asked then to download Clarion from the GCCA website. Deb Gronsky said that Stonegate used a one-page mailer with a good deal of success. Deb will provide Dan with the vendor and cost information. Dan said he will also check with our current vendor on costs and report back to the group.

There were discussions about but no suggestions made for a speaker for the May annual meeting.

A discussion followed about the ZTA (zoning text amendment) related to data centers. A study group is reviewing it and Marc Elrich won't sign off on the ZPA without the study group results. It was noted that the data centers vary in size and that different rules would need to apply accordingly.

There was discussion about bill HB0239, Starter and Silver Homes Act. The group opposed the bill since it would gut single family zoning in the county. It also failed to address parking, stormwater management and infrastructure concerns. Peter copied the district delegation.

Group discussions followed concerning the proposed church on Clifton and Randolph roads. Dan objected to the parking waiver and requested restrictions on parking on Clifton and Midland Streets. Additional concerns about the proposed church parking also noted the conflict with the Buddhist temple and the existing traffic issues with overflow into the neighborhood and the use of the county park-and-ride lot.

Dan mentioned his plan to support the submission of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for East County and Viva White Oak.

A discussion followed about Project Salt Box, a Maryland initiative monitoring ICE efforts to convert warehouses into detention facilities. There was concern about ICE facilities being established in local areas. Local pushback to prevent such developments involves working with local government officials by reporting such efforts.

Submitted by Pat Corey.