

January 13, 2026 GCCA Meeting Minutes

Draft

Attendees: Dan Wilhelm, Marguerite Raaen, Mark Pankow, Ed Weiler, Pat Corey, Ben Eng, Joe Weingarten, Carolyn Bayer, Ayona King

January Minutes: The December monthly minutes were accepted.

January Treasurer's Report: Mark Pankow reported a payment today of \$250 to the legal fund. The current GCCA balance is \$5,317.92. There have been no dues paid since October. The Notley legal fund has collected \$47,123.22 with expenses of \$37,101.59 with a balance of \$10,021.63 which is enough to cover one hearing at about \$8,000. Mark noted that some major expenses will be coming up including the liability insurance for the signs of \$887.00 and our contribution to the church of \$300 since we have reduced our usage. Mark also wrote a check to cover the annual internet web hosting cost. Dan stated that after the next zoning hearing on Thursday we will probably need to make an email appeal for more legal fund donations. Mark noted that Kyle had sent out that request yesterday. The treasurer's report was accepted.

GCCA Business: The Notley Road Development Project's third meeting with OZHA regarding the zoning change request will take place on January 15. The meeting will start with the over 30 public comments speaking in opposition, which will take a good deal of time, followed by Kyle Smittie and Dan giving testimony. Terry Sits is creating a dozen pages of questions that Dan and Kyle will address, a number of which will showcase Dan's expert witness testimony. The majority of the testimony will concern the Master Plan and Thrive, stressing the actual wording and content to refute the sweeping out-of-context statements that the applicants have made. Pointing this out to the hearing examiner will give her a review of the text and have her make her decision based on the intention of the plans. We believe the hearing examiner makes her decision on what the applicant has asked for and can accept or deny it. The Council then can accept her decision or possibly ask for changes from the developer. It was also noted that the hearing may be moved to the 7th floor again at the County Office Building on 100 Maryland Ave., in Rockville.

A question was asked about the Burtonsville townhouse development plan at the shopping center. Dan responded that the town houses being built in the parking lot were in an agreement with the shopping center owner.

The Viva White Oak TIF hearing took place in front of the Council with all seven speakers in strong support. TIF needs to be approved before actual development starts, and details need to be worked out. Dan discussed with DOT the local concerns for Rt. 29 improvements at Tech Road and at Industrial Parkway, and the addition of turn lanes at Broadbirch Dr. at Cherry Hill Rd., which they said they would review with the developer.

Part of the Federal Research Center has a new organization with a couple hundred employees taking over, but not with enough definitive plans to discuss at this time.

Marguerite said that 18 new members had joined Facebook.

East County Citizens Advisory Board's Meeting. Guest speakers from District 20 delegation to the State Assembly discussed the budget shortfall exacerbated by over 20,000 federal employees being laid off and the impact that creates.

The most recent meeting had six speakers from the Chamber of Commerce discussing their support of small businesses to include education and help with navigating county bureaucracy.

The County Council is now looking at priorities and recommendations for the county operating budget. The CIP is submitted in the week of the 15th.

Safety: Ed reported that a neighbor brought a bundle of undelivered mail that had been put in her mailbox. It was suggested that it should be reported to Calvin Clark at 301-572-7610.

A 73-year-old woman was killed in a hit-and-run on Monday, January 12, at 6:40 p.m. on Old Columbia Pike and Fairland Rd. She was hit multiple times, first by an orange Crown Victoria followed by a maroon Toyota Solara, and both cars fled the scene. The driver of the Crown Victoria has been identified.

A Silver Spring woman charged in a fatal collision turned herself in on January 6 and was charged with manslaughter. The collision took place on August 7 at Randolph and Sherwood Forest Drive where she had been driving at 85 mph.

MCPD is investigating the homicide of a 43-year-old Beltsville male that occurred on January 8 at 7:45 p.m. in the 300 block of Briggs Chaney. No arrests have been made and no active tips have been pursued.

On Going Business: Dan noted he had no new on-going business to discuss.

New Business: It was noted that the website that was set up for the Notley Townhouse opposition was for 6 months at \$175 and that someone needs to check in with Terry Sitz on the details of when that is exhausted and the need for it to continue There was no other new business.

Submitted by Pat Corey.