

GCCA Meeting on Sept 14, 2012

Attendees: Dan Wilhelm, Pat Corey, Marguerite Raaen, Ed Weiler, Sara & Lee Leung, Mark Pankow, Peter Myo-Khin

Approval of July Minutes: Minutes were approved

Accepted the July Treasures Report: With the following comments of a discrepancy between the bank and our spreadsheet and Dan spent time to get it to within 20 cents. Discussed Paypal being possible cause. Noel is traveling.

Communications Committee: Discussed fixing Website Paypal issue. Marguerite stated that Facebook rules have changed for community based groups. The old automatic setting would not allow anyone to post just anything. The new rule allowed anyone to post anything unless you requested the change not to occur which she did. This controls all of the posts for ads that would be requested. She wants local East County, Library and other relevant Montgomery County information to be posted.

Marguerite is also responsible for the GCCA email account with her phone number is available on the web site. She has been contacted about the web site link being broken where no one can make donations or fill out membership info via the website. Dave and Noel have been working to resolve it. Pay pal is managed by Noel and the two links on the GCCA website.

Peter stated that he had to just deal with the same issue with pay pal and that there was coding fixes that needed to take place and that he would discuss this with Rob and me. Marguerite did state that the East County updates are appreciated by everyone and she scrapes information from about 20 articles and provides them with all the updates including food outlets, bus route changes, etc.

Community Issues: There is a Zoning issues on ZTA 22-10 Complete Street Design Guide. Concern with changing posted speeds being reduced on a number of roads. They also changed how roads would be designated using residential versus secondary and tertiary and to post the speed limit to 20 MPH. Major roads such as Randolph and New Hampshire would be reduced, but to an unspecified speed. Where we believe enforcement is the main problem and until that occurs changing the speed limits will not accomplish much. Also discussed possible pedestrian accidents could be caused by bus passengers running to catch transfer buses. Slower speed will also cause more congestion and traffic light synchronization needs to be addressed.

Marguerite called in because Zoom was not working.

Safety Issues: A man arrested for a shooting at a gas station on Lockwood Drive in July. This same man was located shortly after the shooting at a local hospital being treated for gunshot wounds. Subsequently an arrest warrant was issued and the man was arrested at BWI.

The other case discussed was when a Sheriff, Captain James Hall, was killed in 1971. It was re-opened as a cold case and a subject of interest that changed names and moved to New York was re-interviewed and confessed to the murder. There may have been a DNA link that caused the re-opening of the case.

On-going Business: The consultant hired to review the Thrive 2050 made changes, but we have not seen recommendations. It was noted that Elrich opposed the recommendations because not enough citizens had a chance to respond to Thrive. One council member did state that the council did need to move forward and not everyone would be happy. The biggest issue still being disputed is the recommendations addressing housing shortage. There are additional issues of trust with public and most citizen associations not believing the council is working in their best interest with zoning issues being the most contentious of the recommendation. The housing shortage being addressed in California and Minnesota was not successful by adding bi and triplex units. Thrive also has a goal to have every service needed within a 5 minute walk, which can't possibly be implemented in rural areas.

The new houses being built on Randolph Road have caused the storm drains to overflow.

Montgomery College is looking to expand into the East County, initially locating a temporary campus while they are looking for a permanent site large enough for the entire campus. A number of individuals are promoting the Viva White Oak area. Two sites being looked at are the large Quality Host facility on Rte. 29 at Lockwood and the Sears site on New Hampshire and Lockwood. The State legislature will need to be involved in the permanent site selection.

US29BRT and NewHampBRT have nothing new to report. Hillandale road improvement still has not changed. Ride-On buses are disputing Fuel Cell because of charging issues. Old Columbia Pike study still has not been decided. White Oak Town Center and Viva White Oak are ready to go. Briggs Chaney Master Plan sited shortage of grocery stores but did not consider how many are south of them.

Adventist Hospital is expanding with more parking and a three story doctor's offices.

Sprouts Grocery is coming to Burtonsville Crossing and the \$5 million incentive with mixed housing with and underground transit center by late 2023.