

GCCA Meeting on Nov 8, 2022

Attendees: Dan Wilhelm, Pat Corey, Noel Gregos, Ben Eng, Marguerite Raaen, Peter Myo-Kim, Ed Weiler, Sarah and Ron Leung, Bob Peters, Dr. Idong, Barbara Buchanan, Alberto Segato

Approval of October Minutes: Minutes were approved with a typo correction on the last page fixed.

Accept the October Treasures Report: There was a \$104 payment for an updated Zoom license and a balance of \$14,580 in the account which includes \$3500 in assigned reserve. It was noted that the recent damage to the sign on western side of Randolph Road estimate to be repaired was \$4,845. Police were contacted to check on an accident or traffic report and the driver's insurance company needs to be contacted for damage payment.

Safety Issues: Multiple fatalities were the result in four separate auto accidents. One occurred on New Hampshire Ave near Meadowood where a van flipped over due to excessive speed. A second fatality was on Randolph Road near Laurie and Pilgrim Hills Park where a small vehicle crossed the median and hit a large pickup truck, again where speeding was suspected. A second car hit the guard rail on the East side of Randolph Road near the underpass. These accidents were addressed in the East County meeting where six fatalities within the past six years have taken place. Christen Mink said she would have the DOT look into the road design. The issues of the road design being the Paint Branch Bridge crossing with extreme road curvature, storm water runoff diagonally crossing the road and the environmental aspects impacting any resolution. A traffic light has been suggested as a possible solution, as well as speed sensor monitors . An additional fatal accidents took place in the last couple of weeks with one on Randolph Road west of Locksley Lane. It was noted that New Hampshire Ave has one of the highest fatality rates in the State and reducing speed limit will not have much of an effect unless it is enforced.

There was a reported arrest of person trying to reach into mail box to steal mail in downtown Silver Spring and two individuals had been arrested after they broke into a home and held a young girl hostage until they fled.

Communications Committee: Discussed the Clarion going out earlier this past week and if it wasn't received that of not being on the distribution list. The Clarion was sent out to members on the large list and some people said that they didn't get it.

Community Issues: The local meeting on the BnB short term housing issue in Sherwood Forest area was delayed due to a number of residents having health issues. They continue to get more information from the County and will have their meeting later in the month.

Mr. Alberto Segato introduced himself. He works for PEPCO with responsibilities for Government and External Affairs in PEPCO's Ambassadors Program connecting with civic associations and Home Owner Associations by acting as a sounding board. This program was delayed because of Covid, but is being initiated with some given talking points. This relationship can take place on a scheduled basis where a volunteer will discuss and help resolve complaints or problems or do presentations on specific subject matter issues. Examples include: energy efficiency, solar programs, winter readiness, storm preparation, electrical outages, street light issues, etc. Typically, a PEPCO volunteer person would attend monthly meetings usually virtually. They have worked on the development of given talking points throughout the year. Alberto joined our Facebook page. He was also asked to write a possible article for the Clarion. A short discussion then took place discussing how and when underground electric lines could replace overhead lines ending with it being prohibit ably expensive to replace current infrastructure, but being done on new development.

On-going Business: Thrive 2050 approved by council.

US29 BRT reliability study planning board has a meeting for recommendations. Dan is forwarding a letter with our recommendations. The council will make final recommendations in next couple of weeks. However, with the majority of the council being new members they will have a huge learning curve to come up to speed, but a lot of the outgoing member's staff transferring over will help by bringing some continuity. The median lanes plan seems to get the most support.

NewHampBRT have nothing new to report.

Hillandale Gateway has all approvals, but cost is over budget .Hillandale facade improvement is being looked at, but owners also need to contribute for it to be approved.

The Old Columbia Pike plan is still under study.

Fairland Master Plan

Viva White Oak still needs WSSC sewer line and infrastructure needs State and County resolution. Eric Leuke is looking at helping resolve it.

White Oak Medical Center said that they would hire every nurse that comes out of the new local Montgomery College.

Montgomery College referencing being near the White Oak Apts. seems to be an ideal location. Dr. Jerimiah Williams said that they would like to have this continuing education center to have 1,000 new students by this coming fall with it to eventually being the largest campus in Montgomery County. This is funded by State and County and will benefit the East County.

Briggs Chaney Master Plan is working on draft.

Burtonsville Shopping Center had zoom session with developers and needs paperwork and signatures to get finished. Infrastructure cost for parking facility which is very expensive due to reinforcement and the shopping center improvement which also needs new sewer and water approvals will be expedited. Discussions followed on costs of these projects.

New Business: Dan Wilhelm announced that he will be moving to Riderwood in the Spring.