

EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Meeting of January 5, 2011

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

MEMBERS (ECCAB)

Present: Marva Deskins, Esq. (Chair); David M. Kochanski, Esq. (Vice Chair); Anthony Ramirez (Secretary); Vanessa E. Ali; Thomas J. Aylward; Kim Bobola; Sally Colgan; G. Stanley Doore; Allan Mulligan; Leonard E. Newman; Saschane M. Stephenson; Ned B. Williams; Peter Myo Khin; Odessa Shannon

Absent: Bill Strassberger; Alfreda Payne; Benoy Thomas

STAFF (EMRSC): Joy Nurmi (Director) and Nona Watson (Community Development Mgr), Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center

GUESTS: Sharon Wilder (Cross Creek Club Community); Mara Parker (Staff, Councilmember Marc Elrich's office); Dan Wilhelm (Greater Colesville Citizens Association (GCCA) and Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF)); Mark Pharaoh (Chair, Eastern County Recreation Advisory Board); Kristin O'Connor (Senior Planner, M-NCPPC); Teddy Wu; Kristi Tousignant (Gazette); Neeta Datt; Wil Gutierrez (Staff, Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office); Peggy Dennis (Montgomery County Civic Federation)

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Chair Marva Deskins – Welcomed everyone and presided over the meeting. The guests were asked to introduce themselves and share their concerns with the board. The floor was opened for questions.

Dan Wilhelm (GCCA/MCCF) – Invited all to come out to hear the Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) report on achieving a structurally balanced county budget, Monday, January 10, 2011 at 7:45 pm at the COB. The speaker will be OLO's Karen Orlansky.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:23 p.m.

Chair Marva Deskins – Announced presentation by Leslie Hamm (MC311 – Customer Service Center)

PRESENTATIONS

Leslie Hamm, MC311 Customer Service Center

Leslie's presentation included: What is MC311? What can it do for you? And, how it's a good decision making tool. MC311 allows a single point of entry to County information and

services. It is a better way to track service request and the status of each request. It provides real-time information and analysis that allows County government to plan appropriately. Typical types of calls include: information requests, referrals, complaints, feedback and opinions. With more than 13,000 phone numbers and 10,000 emails, all calls are now routed to 311. MC 311 has projected more than \$10 million in savings for FY10 and FY11 and strives to make it as easy as possible to receive information and assistance.

Q & A session followed.

Chair Deskins– Thanked the speaker for her presentation.

ECCAB PRIORITIES DISCUSSION FOR FY 2012

Priorities to be addressed

1. **Thomas Aylward** - The two major planning efforts (Burtonsville Neighborhood Plan and East County Science Center Master Plan); sidewalk and pedestrian issues; continue focusing on Route 198 even though it's SHA (Dino Drive safety stop light issue).
2. **Anthony Ramirez** - (Public Safety) – District Police Station; continuing IDA Sector meetings; adequate officers; concerned about high turnover with police; need police who know the area; new Fire Station; monitoring response time for current station; support for ECRSC – help Center identify what's needed so we can represent them and bring the County closer to the people; HHS – adequate facilities, clinics and needs are met.
3. **Kim Bobola** - Continuing with safety concerns, more specifically recent reports about crime in Briggs Chaney/Camera Surveillance; Education – to provide support of maintaining CIP schedule in Montgomery County. Monitor projects that are scheduled; Hollywood Ballroom/Dances for profit. Chamber and non-profit should be able to buy-in to any legislation
4. **Stanley Doore** -What's being done in MC to institute laptop learning?
5. **Odessa Shannon** - (Outreach) – Crime and gang activity. Make sure community is aware of gang activity and it should be included in the crime report; placing traffic lights at Paint Branch High School; ongoing support of the Adventist Hospital.
6. **Floor Priorities** - David M. Kochanski had concerns about the education and public safety priorities we identified stating monies probably won't be available.
7. **Joy Nurmi announced:** Montgomery County and Prince Georges County will receive a 1.3 million grant. Part of it will go towards police and some HHS Youth Prevention; IDA Sector meeting will be held January 25th at 7:00 pm. Mitch Cunningham, Special Investigation Unit will be guest speaker. He will give detailed information about Briggs Chaney, Castle Blvd, and White Oak and what their plan is for those areas. The meeting will take place at the EMRSC on Jan. 25th at 7:00 pm.
8. **Allan Mulligan** (point of information) – Incident at McKnew

Chair Deskins will compose a letter and submit to entire ECCAB for approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[January 5, 2011 -1] Chair Deskins asked for a review of the minutes of the ECCAB Meeting of December 1, 2010. The motion was moved by David Kochanski; seconded by Leonard Newman and unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Burtonsville Plan goes to Council on the 13th
2. Operating Budget Forum to be held January 20th. Joy suggested that Marva and committee chairs attend to hear from the community.
3. February 10th – Be prepared to discuss priorities with County Executive
4. YAC – Members will come to the Budget Forum; Members are sponsoring a coat drive to benefit students in need at Greencastle Elementary. Please support.
5. BCC Ethics and Open Meetings Act – all chairs of committees should know how to conduct meetings. Thursday, January 27th at the EOB

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair's report will address three motions:

1. Economic Development – Letter regarding the Burtonsville Liquor License
2. Proposal to establish new committees
3. Letter submitted by Peter Myo Khin regarding Pepco

The following ECCAB members will be leaving the Board:

Vanessa Ali, Kim Bobola, Sally Colgan, Stan Doore, Alfreda Payne and Bill Strassberger.

Six vacancies will soon be available on ECCAB. Volunteers needed to interview.

Volunteers: Kim Bobola, Odessa Shannon and David Kochanski

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Mark Elrich's office:

Mara Parker announced:

1. Office of Legislative Oversight report on County budget is available.
2. Town Hall Meeting with Council members - February 2, 2011 – Francis Scott Key Middle School at 7:30 pm
3. Discussion of Pepco – February 7th at Council's Transportation and Environment Committee at 2pm
4. Rapid Transit – Looking for community involvement

COMMITTEE REPORTS - No committee reports

OLD BUSINESS

[January 5, 2011 -2] The motion was moved by Thomas Aylward to have letter to the County Executive and County Council supporting a waiver for a liquor license in the Burtonsville Shopping Center moved; seconded by Anthony Ramirez and unanimously approved.

[January 5, 2011 -3] The motion was moved by Kim Bobola to reestablish and restructure ECCAB committees; seconded by Anthony Ramirez and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Peter Myo Khin – letter to the Pepco Workgroup regarding the poor service Pepco has provided. Peter suggested a separate letter may be written concerning BG&E issues brought up by Thomas Aylward. Edits were made by ECCAB members.

[January 5, 2011 -4] The motion was moved by Peter Myo Khin to adopt letter to County Executive, to be forwarded to the Pepco Workgroup; seconded by David Kochanski and unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Dennis, Montgomery County Civic Federation – distributed MCCF Newsletter and invited all to review website www.montgomerycivic.org

ADJOURNMENT

[January 5, 2011 -5] **Peter Myo Khin** – made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by David Kochanski and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

The next meeting of ECCAB is scheduled for February 2, 2011.

Director's Report – January 2011

Burtonsville Neighborhood Plan at the Planning Board on January 13th

The Planning Commission will consider the scope of work for the Burtonsville Neighborhood Plan on January 13th. Check out the staff's proposal at:

<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/burtonsville/>

County Executive to Hold Operating Budget Forum on January 20th

County Executive Ike Leggett is sponsoring five budget forums throughout the County in coming weeks to seek input from residents about Fiscal Year 2012 Operating Budget priorities. With a projected \$300 million budget gap looming, Montgomery County is again facing a challenging fiscal forecast.

The forums will begin at 7 p.m., on the following dates:

- January 10, Upcounty Regional Services Center, 12900 Middlebrook Rd., Germantown
- January 13, Silver Spring Civic Building, One Veterans Plaza, Silver Spring
- January 18, Crossway Community, 3015 Upton Dr., Kensington
- **January 20, Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Rd., Silver Spring**
- January 24, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor La., Bethesda

The County Executive announces his recommended fiscal year 2012 operating budget on March 15. The County Council approves the operating budget at the end of May.

IDA Sector Meeting on January 25th

The next IDA Sector meeting will be held on January 25th at the East County Regional Center, large conference room. There was a recent article in The Washington Post about the decline in serious crime in the Metro area, but mentions that there is an “uptick” in the Briggs Chaney area of Montgomery County. The article can be viewed at

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/31/AR2010123104338.html?sub=AR>

Youth Advisory Committee

The East County Youth Advisory Council (ECYAC) has been developing its community service project, and has decided to do a coat drive to benefit Greencastle Elementary School students from needy families (flyer is below). Also, the ECYAC members would like to attend February's ECCAB meeting to get to know their adult counterparts. They would like to address the topic of crime and gang issues in East County, and the School Resource Officers from the East County schools are being requested to attend. Please help spread the word about the coat drive and plan to participate!!

Coats 4 Kids

Supported by the
County Executive's East County Youth Advisory Committee



WHO: You! Help us help elementary students keep warm this winter.

WHAT: Donate new or gently used coats, scarves, hats, gloves, and other winter apparel for students in grades K-5.

WHERE: Drop off the clothing at any of the six locations:

- Counseling office of Paint Branch High School
- Counseling office of Blake High School
- Counseling office of Springbrook High School
- Marilyn J. Praisner Recreation Center
- East County Recreation Center (3310 Gateshead Manor Way, Silver Spring, MD 20904)
- East County Regional Services Center (3300 Briggs Chaney Road Silver Spring, MD 20904)

WHEN: January 11, 2011 – January 25, 2011

WHY: Help provide winter apparel to needy families at a local school in our community.

For more information contact Joy Nurmi at
Joy.Nurmi@montgomerycountymd.gov or 240-777-8411