**East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)**

**December 4, 2013**

**Meeting Summary**

**Call to Order:** 7:15 pm

**Members Present:** Roy Chavera**,** Marya Ford, Alison Praisner-Klumpp, David Kochanski, Peter Myo Khin, Allan Mulligan, Len Newman, Jerold Samet, Ian Swain, Samantha Blizzard, Teddy Wu.

**Members Absent:** Anthony Ramirez,Rachel W-Garner, Fatmata Barrie, Tamika Bennett,

**Staff Present:** Jewru Bandeh, Anita Mwalui (Intern).

**Guests Present:** Hon. Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County Council Member At Large and

Diane Jones, Director, MC Department of Permitting Services.

Jeffrey Thames, Ed Weiler, Bob Sylvester, Sammy Young, Mark Doore, Veronica Carrera, Frank Cockran, Tom Aylward, Dan Wilhelm, Mara Parker, Mark Pharaoh.

**Citizens’ Forum**

* Jeffrey Thames updated the board on the accomplishments of the White Oak warriors, a team of 12-14 year olds who went to Florida to represent East County in a basketball tournament. Approximately, $24,396 was raised in the community to support the team and the 7 chaperons.
* Frank Cockran talked about public safety, zoning and housing code violations in the Calverton area and the collaboration taking place to help address the problems.

**Presentations by Guests:**

* Nancy Floreen, Councilmember at Large briefed the board on progress made on Zoning Rewrite efforts, and suggested that more information about the project can be found on the Montgomery County Council and Planning Board websites. She talked about the rationale for the rewrite of the zoning code, some of the changes under consideration, issues related to housing back yard chickens, the connection between the new zoning code and master plans, and mixed use zones. She went on to say that

adopting the Zoning Code/Rewrite and map amendment has been a tedious process with great interest from various segments of the community. There are many issues under consideration with significant impact on communities and residents. Full Council deliberation on the issue will take place on January 14, 15 & 16, 2014. David Kochanski asked about an affordable housing policy related issue, which Eileen responded as being positive.

Nancy provided a draft zoning code and district map amendment frequently asked questions handout for distribution, and talked briefly about her support for moving the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan forward.

* Diane Jones, Director of Permitting Services talked about the administrative aspects of the zoning code rewrite in regards to permitting. She reported that her department received an overwhelming number of requests for building permits inspections and plan reviews. She also indicated that her department experienced 20% staff reduction. She reported that DPS has established a new division, Zoning and Site Plan and a new Director has been hired. Some of the suggestions she is working on includes streamlining some functions and focusing more efforts on community outreach. E-electronic permitting will be available in February. This pilot project was launched in the first week of December week, but the department encountered some challenges with commercial permits. Signs are still illegal unless on public right of way. The department is planning on conducting a sign-sweep campaign. Still, there are no charges for fire alarm inspections.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* The minutes of November 4, 2013 were unanimously approved.

**ECCAB Chair’s Report:**

* Chair reported on the ECCAB letter in support of the Burtonsville Enterprise Property Tax Credit Bill introduced by Councilmember Valerie Ervin, and his testimony at the Council public hearing on the Bill.
* The Chair reminded members to complete the CountyStat survey form and return it at their earliest as requested.

**Director’s Report:**

* The ECRSC Director provided a written reported, and added a few comments:
* the upcoming IDA Sector Police meeting with the community, the County Executive’s FY 15 Operating Budget Forum on January 16, 2014 at 7 pm, ECCAB meeting to be held on January 8th instead of the 1st, Request for board reimbursement (forms are available), East County small business summit planned for 2014.

**Council Staff Announcements**

* Mara Parker reported on (the following) Tuesday’s final reading on the report on youth and work opportunities in Montgomery County by the Council.
* New Voting sites in Montgomery County.
* A brief statement about the County’s Minimum Wage bill.
* Mentioned the OLO hearing on Youth Work Opportunities report and the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Plan.

**Committee Reports:**

* The board briefly discussed the issue of holding the East County Leadership Summit on a five year cycle. Members agreed to do it every four years instead, in order to align it with the County Council elections and budget cycles. The board unanimously voted to make the change. The next East County Leadership Summit will be held in the spring of 2015.
* The board will wait to receive the revised WOSGMP recommendations from the Planning Board before proceeding on committee meeting/activities.

**Old Business (None)**

**New Business (None)**

**Announcements:** Next ECCAB meeting will be on January 8, 2014**.**

**Adjournments: Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.**