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

Eastern Montgomery Regional Center

3300 Briggs Chaney Road

Silver Spring, MD 20904

**Wednesday, November 6, 2013**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Called to order:** 7:15 pm

**Members Present:** Len Newman, Roy Chavera, Jerry Samet, Alison Praisner-Klumpp, Allan Mulligan, David Kochanski, Teddy Wu, Marya Ford, Samantha Blizzard, Fatmata Barrie, Tamika Bennett, Ian Swain, Christine Stephan, Anthony Ramirez.

**Members Absent:** Peter Myo Khin, Lucretia Bartley, Rachel Whavers

**Staff Present**: Jewru Bandeh, Anita Mwalui

**Guests Present:** Council Member Hon. Valerie Ervin, Marlene Michaelson, Greg Ossont, Erik Amick, Chris Bradbury, Ed Weiler, Mark Pharaoh, Jonathan Genn, Fred Stichnorth, Dan Wilhelm, Bob Sylvester, Mark Doore, Adrienne Lees, Mara Parker, Marlene Michaelson, Eileen Finnegan, Richard Romer.

**Citizen’s Forum**

* Chris Bradbury from Impact Silver Spring updated the board on east county parents circle activities and the collaborative work with the community, including door knocking and survey on recreation program needs.
* Erik Amick, owner and manager of Chic-Filet at Tech Road and Route 29 was acknowledged for proving lunch boxes for the October 12 leadership summit and dinner for the November 6th board meeting.
* Ed Wieler informed the board about the Deshawn Jones court case decision.

 **Presentations**

* Council Member Valerie Ervin and Marlene Michaelson of the Montgomery County Council provided a brief overview on the White Oak Gateway Master Plan and anticipated time line. The Executive Branch and the Planning Board are working together under a tight time line to provide recommendations/options to the Council that will create balance between land use and transportation. The Council is in support of moving forward and adopting a balanced plan. Both presenters talked about issues and answered questions relative to the WOSGMP: staging, sectional map amendment, transportation impacts, impact on Calverton Boulevard, working with Prince George’s County.
* Greg Ossont, MCDGS Deputy Director provided a brief overview of some of the issues under discussion: achieving balance between land use and transportation, subdivision staging policy/alternate staging mechanism and need for broader community outreach on the issues.
* Valerie gave a brief overview about the basket ball tournament (audacity of hoops) in downtown Silver Spring which went well, and would like to hold a similar event in East County in addition to a soccer tournament.
* The Council member also talked about the capital area food bank event she attended in Washington, DC and thought that replicating a similar project to help many struggling Montgomery County families in need would be a good idea. She proposed doing a can food drive in one of the area schools, which was supported by some board members
* Finally she addressed some of the key interests within the community relative to disparities in student test scores and the achievement gap, crime, the healthcare exchange and utilization of the ICC.

**Approval of Minutes**

* The minutes for October 2, 2013 were unanimously approved.

**ECCAB Chairs Report**

* On behalf of the Chair who was absent, the Vice Chair gave a brief report on the success of the October 12, 2013 leadership summit and thanked everyone for their contributions and attendance.

**Director’s Report**

* Provided a written report/handout
* Made a brief mention of the new programs now offered in the ECRSC-job search assistance, outreach and enrollment in the healthcare program and planned small business conference in January 2014.

 **Council Staff Announcements**

* Mara Parker from Council member Elrich’s office talked about two scheduled hearings on zoning ordinance rewrite, the proposed minimum wage legislation, MCPS school construction funding and WOSGMP transportation related issues.
* Mentioned that the leadership summit was great and suggested that it should be planned for 2-3 years instead of 5 years.

**Committee Reports:**

* Anthony Ramirez mentioned that the summit greatly helped put/ keep East County on the County agenda and radar. He thanked everyone for helping make the event successful.
* Teddy Wu, recommended moving the Zoning and Infrastructure Committee meeting from second Wednesday to the second Monday of the month.

**Old Business** (none)

**New business**:

* A (East County) small business information and resource summit is being planned for January, 2014
* Fatmata Barrie talked briefly about possible changes to the immigrant bill that would impact the African community and asked for support for the Diversity Visa program.

**Announcements** (none)

**Adjournment:** meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.