



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary April 16, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Juan Cardenas. Introductions were made.

Regional Services Director noted a correction needed to the February meeting summary ---Board member Doug Noble was present but not recorded as such. The meeting summary for March 19, 2012 was approved with that correction (King moved, Nelson seconded).

Update from Upcounty Regional Director

Catherine Matthews, Regional Director, shared the following information.

- The UCAB vacancy announcement was released by the Public Information Office and members are encouraged to identify potential applicants.
- The Council has started budget worksessions and Board members are reminded to check the Council's agendas for schedules.
- County Executive Leggett will hold a live online "town hall" meeting on April 18 and an in-person town hall meeting on May 3 at Friendship Heights Village Center in Chevy Chase.
- Mr. Leggett has asked the Council to consider an expedited bill to create an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Reimbursement Program similar to a bill proposed two years ago.
- Street sweeping has begun and the schedule is on DOT's webpage.
- The Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs announced a new Chief of Housing, Jalel Greene.
- The County's State delegation announced their accomplishments, but a special session is expected in order to finish revenue generating bills that will finance approved expenditures for the State's FY13 budget.
- On April 20, there was a dedication of the county's first public safety memorial with the families of deceased service men and women in attendance.
- The Planning Board has several announcements: a new transportation test (TPAR) with a public hearing on April 19; a Request for Proposals for the reuse of closed park facilities; a vacancy on the Planning Board; Parks and Planning may move to consolidated headquarters in Wheaton; and the Planning Dept. is inviting minor master plan submissions.
- There are proposed increases in Ride On fares; Council's public hearing will be on April 24.
- A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new Montgomery TennisPlex facility at S. Germantown Recreational Park. It is expected to open in fall 2012.

Update from the County Council

- No report.

Guest Discussion: Mr. Qi Duan and Ms. Janice Freeman, members of the Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB), were introduced and Mr. Duan explained CERB's mission and asked for comments from UCAB members that will be considered as the CERB report is compiled.

Ms. Diane Schwartz-Jones, Director of Permitting Services (DPS), discussed the Executive's initiative to streamline the development process. A community workshop is scheduled for May 15 at the Executive Office Building. The discussion will focus on problems and solutions. She is also re-evaluating DPS' fee structure. Board members raised issues about how technology could help with the permitting process, landscapers who are thought to be violating code; the need to

increase enforcement efforts in the Ag Reserve; and the limited access for Fire and Rescue trucks on Clarksburg streets with parking on both sides.

Other general Board discussion: Board members discussed a traffic management issue at Rt. 27 and Skylark Drive in Germantown; the Planning Board's update on the Clarksburg Town Center scheduled for April 26, signage in Montgomery Village/Prathertown, media coverage about overtime for public safety personnel, and the seemingly contradiction of raising Ride On fares while trying to encourage more ridership.

Report from the Chairperson – Mr. Cardenas noted the following:

- UCAB submitted a letter to County Executive Leggett on March 7 conveying Upcounty priorities to consider when developing his FY13 operating budget.
- UCAB presented testimony to Council on April 10 regarding the FY13 operating budget.
- UCAB's Executive Committee developed comments in response to a questionnaire from CERB about board operations and resources.
- The Chair asked the Nominating Committee for nominations for officers who will serve during FY13 (July 2012-June 2013). The nominees offered thus far are Mr. Cherian Eapen, Mr. Kevin Linck, and Mr. Oneil Ormsby. Mr. Matthew Leakan respectfully declined his nomination due to work commitments.
- The Chair announced that there would be a joint committee meeting on April 23 to hear more about the proposed transportation test, Transportation Policy Area Review (TPAR). *Several days after this Board meeting, it was decided that the joint committees would meet instead to discuss the proposed "Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement Act" (Bill #17-12).*

Committee Reports: None.

Community Concerns: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Attendance: Juan Cardenas, Matthew Leakan, Cherian Eapen, Andres Aviles, Joel Cockrell, Beth Daly, James King, Kevin Linck, Robert Nelson, Doug Noble, Oneil Ormsby, Gail Robinson, Robert Thompson.

Additional Guests: Dale Tibbitts (Councilmember Elrich's Office), Anne Sturm, Rosemary Arkoian, Brian Donohue.

Staff: Catherine Matthews

Approved May 21, 2012