



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Annual Meeting Summary June 11, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Juan Cardenas who welcomed the guests in attendance. Introductions were made.

The meeting summary for May 21 will be acted on at the September meeting of the full Board.

Update from the Upcounty Regional Services Director

No report.

Update from the Council

County Council members Craig Rice and Marc Elrich, and Juan Jovel from Councilmember George Leventhal's office were present. Mr. Elrich discussed his efforts to bring the Rapid Transit Vehicle (RTV) proposal to fruition. Mr. Rice stated his desire to bring more jobs in the Upcounty area. Mr. Jovel stated that Mr. Leventhal is interested in the same and in getting more involved in Clarksburg's matters. All of the gentlemen mentioned their efforts to ensure that progress is made to slowly and strategically restore services in the County's operating budget such as expanded library hours and additional materials, and more police personnel.

Guest Discussion – "Upcounty Annual Report"

Mr. Cardenas welcomed Ms. Joy Nurmi, Special Assistant to County Executive Ike Leggett, who represented Mr. Leggett at this meeting. Ms. Nurmi offered some opening remarks and thanked the Board for their dedication and attention to the issues that affect their neighborhoods and the county as a whole. She also noted some issues that will probably be raised in the next year.

After some opening remarks, Mr. Cardenas summarized the Board's report for the year with particular recommendations mentioned. The report can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/upcounty.

In closing, Ms. Nurmi once again acknowledged the work of the Board and presented a certificate of appreciation from County Executive Leggett to retiring Board member Joel Cockrell. Another retiring member, Rebecca Walker, was not able to attend the meeting.

Community Concerns – None

At this point in the meeting, the Chair's gavel was ceremoniously passed from Mr. Cardenas to the newly elected Chair, Mr. Kevin Linck.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Attendance: Juan Cardenas, Cherian Eapen, Andres Aviles, Joel Cockrell, Beth Daly, Scott Graham, Kevin Linck, Robert Nelson, Doug Noble, Pat Seals, Ruyan Teng, Robert Thompson.

Staff: Catherine Matthews



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Planning Retreat Summary Saturday, July 7, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kevin Linck and introductions were made.

Guest Discussion: "Update on Upcounty Housing Affairs"

Mr. Rick Nelson, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, reviewed for the Board his department's work on: a) the Focused Neighborhood Assistance Program; b) foreclosure prevention efforts; and c) redevelopment plans for the Public Safety Training Academy site which will be predominantly housing. After Mr. Nelson's presentation, the Board suspended their meeting for approximately 20 minutes to visit the workshop elsewhere in the regional services center where Maryland Attorney General Doug Gansler was hosting a public workshop on foreclosure prevention. The Board then reconvened their meeting.

Upcounty Regional Services Director Catherine Matthews reviewed board procedures and protocols. She announced that County Executive Leggett's Transit Task Force was holding a public forum on July 12, and that the County Council had scheduled a public meeting with Pepco.

Mr. Linck explained the goals for the day: a) to develop a work plan for the year; and b) to confirm the committee structure for the year. It was decided that the two standing committees would remain (the Quality of Life Committee, and the Land Use Committee).

The Board then broke into committees to prioritize major issues that may be discussed this year and any potential outcomes, and then regrouped to review them. Other suggestions made by members for the upcoming year included inviting state legislators from bordering jurisdictions to a meeting, scheduling a joint meeting of the five regional Citizens Advisory Boards, and holding two meetings in communities (Clarksburg and Poolesville).

Other Business

- Mr. Robert Nelson suggested that the Board hear from transportation expert Philip Tarnoff at a meeting dedicated to transportation.
- Ms. Gail Robinson asked that the appropriate office be notified that pedestrian countdown signals throughout Germantown should be checked to allow pedestrians ample time to cross wide intersections.
- Ms. Matthews will contact the County's Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security for copies of the County's emergency response plan.

The Board agreed that their September meeting would focus on the changing demographics of the Upcounty and the status of the Upcounty business community.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Attendance: Kevin Linck, Cherian Eapen, Andres Aviles, Juan Cardenas, Matthew Leakan, Robert Nelson, Doug Noble, Gail Robinson, and James Wallace.

Staff: Catherine Matthews



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary July 9, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kevin Linck. Introductions were made.

Meeting summaries from May 21, June 11, and July 7 will be acted on in September since there was not a quorum present.

Update from Upcounty Regional Services Director

No report.

Update from the County Council

County Council members Phil Andrew and Craig Rice were present to hear Board members' comments and to discuss thoughts being discussed among Councilmembers about the RTV system.

Guest Discussion – “Implementation of the RTV in Montgomery County”

This was a special meeting called by the Chair to provide comments to County Executive Leggett on the planned implementation of a rapid transit vehicle system (RTV) in the county. Mr. David McDonough, Director of Development Oversight for Johns Hopkins University, and a member of the County's Transit Task Force provided an overview of the County's planned RTV system, its proposed timeline and cost schedule. Mr. McDonough is also a member of a coalition of property owners who have proposed an alternative implementation plan for Phase I of the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) --- the part of the system that will serve the northern part of the county. The coalition's alternative proposal modifies the alignment for Phase I in an effort to both accelerate the project and save money. However, Councilmembers Andrews and Rice challenged the alternative proposal with concerns that the modified alignment adds travel time for passengers. Councilmember Rice also stated his doubt about cost estimates for the alternative.

Board members expressed their thoughts and concerns and then acknowledged a resident in attendance for her comments (see Community Concerns below). The Board decided that they were not ready at this time to send comments to Mr. Leggett on the system.

Report from the Chairperson

No report.

Committee Reports

No reports.

Community Concerns – Ms. Kathie Hulley of Clarksburg stated concerns that: a) a local bus network was needed in her community now; b) the CCT alignment needed to be as direct as possible and not run a meandering route; and c) in addition to the CCT, she wanted to see road project M-83 built on its original alignment.

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

Attendance: Kevin Linck, Cherian Eapen, Andres Aviles, Juan Cardenas, Natalia Farrar, James King, Robert Nelson, Doug Noble, and James Wallace.

Additional Guests: Drew Morrison, Tom Osborne. (see sign in sheet for complete listing).

Staff: Catherine Matthews



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary September 24, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kevin Linck. Introductions were made.

The meeting summary from May 21 was approved (moved by Pat Seals, seconded by Robert Thompson). Meeting summaries for June 11, July 7 and July 9 need editing corrections and will be acted on in October.

Update from Upcounty Regional Services Director

Regional Services Director Catherine Matthews updated the Board on several items. Legislation on accessory apartments is currently before the County Council and several worksessions are expected before it's discussed at full Council. The Council is also discussing the introduction of a subdivision staging policy that would bring back a broader area review with development proposals. County Executive Leggett sent a letter to Council asking them to decide next steps for determining development going forward in the Ten Mile Creek/Stage 4 area of Clarksburg (see Mr. Leggett's letter attached). Ms. Matthews announced that the Germantown Oktoberfest celebration will take place this year at High Point Farm in Clarksburg. The event had become so popular while at the Ridge Road Park site, that logistical problems in accommodating the crowds required moving it to a larger site.

Update from the County Council

(See Ms. Matthews' report)

Guest Discussion – “Demographic Overview of the Upcounty”

Pamela Zorich from the Planning Department's Research and Information Services Office provided an update of demographic data regarding aspects of community life in the Upcounty compared to the other regions in the county as well as the county as a whole. Or example, a population increase of 24% is projected for the Upcounty and Bethesda-Chevy Chase regions by 2040. The entire presentation will be posted on the Upcounty webpage when provided by Planning staff. The Board expects to refer to this information as a foundation to many of the Board's discussions this year.

Guest Discussion – “State of the Business Community in the Upcounty”

Economic Development Director Steve Silverman reviewed changes in the business community and issues that still affect growth and retention efforts. He also discussed how private sector initiatives can be supported through master plans such as is happening with the Great Seneca Sciences Corridor, Germantown, and East County. Mr. Silverman's office will continue to work with the State in supporting start-up businesses.

Report from the Chairperson

Mr. Linck opened his remarks with a request for a moment of silence in acknowledgment the passing of Board member Gail Robinson's husband, Phil Robinson. A memorial mass will be held on September 26 beginning at 10:30am at Mother Seton Catholic Church in Germantown. The Robinson family will be remembered in our thoughts and prayers. Other announcements are as follows. Interviews to fill vacant board seats will be underway soon. Board member Oneil Ormsby received a job promotion and has resigned due to an increase in job-related responsibilities. Legislators from our State delegation and the County Council have been invited to discuss Upcounty issues at the Board's October 15th meeting. UCAB's November 19th meeting will be held in Clarksburg. The County Council's Airpark Liaison Committee is scheduled to meet on November 7 in Rockville beginning at 4:00pm and Juan Cardenas has been appointed to represent UCAB. A proposal to develop the Nike missile site off Snouffer School Road in Gaithersburg and the property owners will host a series of informational meetings for the community with the next one being on October 2 at the Lake Marion Community Center in Montgomery Village and beginning at 7:30pm. The County's Division of Solid Waste Services is conducting a series of facility tours this fiscal year. The schedule was given and noted to be on the County's website.

Committee Reports

No reports.

Community Concerns

None.

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

Attendance: Kevin Linck, Cherian Eapen, Andres Aviles, Juan Cardenas, Beth Daly, Natalia Farrar, Robert Nelson, Doug Noble, Robert Thompson, and James Wallace.

Staff: Catherine Matthews

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