

APPROVED

PUBLIC HEARING via ZOOM

September 18, 2021

Board President Nahid Khozeimeh called the public hearing to order at 10:00 am. In virtual attendance were Mrs. Khozeimeh - President, Ms. Diane Nash Dillon - Vice President, Mr. David Naimon - Secretary, Dr. Elisse Barnes - member, Mr. Alexander Vincent - newly appointed member, Mr. Alan Banov - member and Kevin Karpinski - Board Attorney. Staff in attendance were Ms. Margaret Jurgensen, Ms. Alysoun McLaughlin, Mrs. Lisa Merino-Dean and Mr. Jerry Quarshie. The purpose of the meeting was to hear public comments before the Board decides on which early voting sites to recommend to the State Board of Elections. The State law requires that the number of early voting sites in Montgomery County go from eleven to thirteen. Montgomery County may also recommend a fourteenth site, but only by agreement with the Montgomery County Executive and the Montgomery County Council.

Mrs. Khozeimeh welcomed and thanked the public for their attendance and introduced Board members. She added that the meeting would be recorded and that it would be posted to the Board of Elections website, direct link found [here](#). All written comments and comments received via email will be added to the record (all comments received are found at the end of these minutes). Mrs. Khozeimeh added that several of the comments received were in support of three popular sites, Nancy Dacek North Potomac Community Recreation Center, White Oak Community Recreation Center, and Bauer Drive Community Recreation Center. Mrs. Khozeimeh's intention is to propose a motion at the September 20, 2021, Board meeting supporting retaining all 11 sites from the 2020 election and adding all 3 sites as early voting centers. However, the 14th site (Bauer Drive Community Recreation Center) would be contingent upon the county providing funding for this site.

Mr. Karpinski addressed the public, noting the previous discussions regarding early voting site selections were done at the June 21 and July 19 Board meetings. All materials on the proposed sites can be found under the July 19, 2021, Meeting Agenda, Meeting Documents and Audio at [www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org).

Ms. Jurgensen stated that all sites were reviewed and selected based on the State Board of Elections' legal requirements.

The Board members thanked those who provided comments and those attending the meeting.

Ms. McLaughlin reviewed the technical process for those addressing the Board.

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Mrs. Khozeimeh opened the floor for public comments.

Delegate Lorig Charkoudian (Dist. 20) spoke in support of White Oak Community Recreation Center to be used as an early voting center for 2022.

Daniel Koroma, resident of White Oak, spoke in support of White Oak Community Recreation Center to be used as an early voting center for 2022.

Linda Wright, Chairman of The Connection and Social Action Committee for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Theta Omega Omega chapter, spoke in support of White Oak Community Recreation Center as an early voting center for 2022.

Sandra Zimmet, Democratic Club in Leisure World representative, spoke in favor for a larger ballot drop box at Leisure World and supported the use of Bauer Drive Community Recreation Center as an early voting center in 2022.

Jeremiah Pope, resident of the Hillandale Community, spoke in support of the White Oak Community Recreation Center as an early voting center.

Rachael Evans, resident of White Oak, spoke in support of the White Oak Community Recreation Center as an early voting center.

Delegate David Moon (Dist. 20), representative of Silver Spring and White Oak regions, spoke in support of the White Oak Community Recreation Center as an early voting center.

Fatmata Barrie, attorney and resident of White Oak, spoke in support of the White Oak Community Recreation Center as an early voting center.

Paul Ellis, resident of Silver Spring and former Future Vote Student Election Aide and election judge, spoke in support of the White Oak Community Recreation Center as an early voting center.

Lori Farmer, resident of Colesville and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., spoke in support of the ease of voting and supports an early voting center in White Oak.

Alexandra Farmer, resident of Colesville, spoke in support of the White Oak Community Recreation Center as an early voting center.

Monte Gingery, resident of Potomac, expressed concerns with lack of equitable distribution of early voting centers up-county.

Board President Nahid Khozeimeh thanked all the attendees and those who provided public comments. Board President Khozeimeh thereafter adjourned the meeting at 11:00am.

The next Board meeting will be September 20, 2021 at 2:30 via Zoom.