



FRIENDS OF WHITE OAK Minutes

October 21, 2019

7:00 to 8:30pm

White Oak Recreation Center

Members present were Fatmata, Dave, Rachael, Rob, Brian, Shane, Barry and Pete (staff). Elisse, Shana, Chris, Ken, Kim, June and Bruce were necessarily absent.

- Pete welcomed everyone and noted the September 12, 2019 minutes were approved by email. The agenda and minutes were made available to the public and posted on the website.
- Guest Speaker: Khalid Afzal, Special Projects Manager-General Plan Update Director's Office, Montgomery County Planning Department; Thrive 2050 Update
 - Thrive 2050 is the Planning Department's campaign to collect information in order to amend the 1969 County General Plan. Khalid reviewed the General Plan history and several statistics; as well as ways to participate in the process. Rob asked if the Plan was coordinated with the WMATA Metro. Khalid said no because WMATA had not finished the planning process at the time. However, there was a minor plan amendment later that discussed the Metro. Shane noted that "available" land, as Khalid noted, to build upon means the land outside the Agricultural Reserve; not the entire County. This is because the Reserve was a choice made for preservation of green space. "Available" is not always clear to the public and suggests we are running out of real estate. Khalid discussed the change in demographics due to Baby Boomers and Millennials as well as immigration. It was asked if the General Plan alters the existing master plans. No, it does not. The General Plan sets the standards for future master plans and amendments. Transit options were mentioned as an area in need of improvements with monorail specifically discussed. Shane noted many times crucial decisions are influenced by a vocal minority and not most communities.
- Discussion
 - Nominations & Vote on Chairperson – Board voted to create a co-chair system. Nomination by Shana via email was Elisse; and Shane nominated Dave at the meeting. Unanimous vote to elect both Elisse and Dave as Co-Chairs.

- Budget Forums and Speaker – FOWO will be meeting on November 13th at the East County Regional Services Center and the Co-Chairs will testify in support of funding for FOWO efforts. Following the forum testimony, the Board will go next door to conduct their November meeting.
- Updates from Pete
 - The October 10th Biz Roundtable was well attended, and the Executive promised a new website for White Oak. Pete has begun meeting with public and private webmasters to explore possibilities.
 - The 2nd Placemaking Meeting was held with Planning, DOT, Parks and Recreation to further define what options we have for some events in White Oak. The departments concurred that FOWO try to have two events, one at Hillandale Park and one at a shopping center. Pete has worked out liability concerns with the County Attorney and Risk Assessment so details would have to agree with a shopping center owner.
 - A rendering of the Stewart Lane BRT Station was shared. Under construction now, the new station will be completed in 2020.
 - A letter from FOWO in support for a 12th voting site in White Oak was sent to the BOE (see below).
- From the Board
 - Rachael shared the results of the County BOE meeting that took place earlier that day. The BOE voted to send two choices to the State for a selection: White Oak and North Potomac. The final vote now goes to the State's BOE on October 31st.
- From the Public – Opportunity to Bring up a Topic Not on the Agenda
 - No comments
- Adjourn (8:45)