



FRIENDS OF WHITE OAK
Meeting Minutes
3-26-18 at 7pm

Members present were, Elisse Wright Barnes, Fizie Haleem, Shana Davis-Cook, June Henderson, Richard Romer and Pete Fosselman (staff). Jeremiah Pope, Barry Wides, Brian Downie, and Shane Pollin were necessarily absent. Andrew Bossi of the DOT and Greg Nichols of DPS were guest speakers. Several members of the community joined as well.

- Introductions were given.
- Agendas and Minutes were made available to the public.
- Pete reviewed the Board's policy of only members at the table; and only members speak participate in the discussion, however, members may seek feedback from members of the audience when appropriate. The meetings are open to the public and minutes are made public. Opportunity is given under "From the Public" at the end of the meeting for comments.
- Minutes
 - Approved from January 29, 2018.
 - Board decided to go back to approving minutes by email as it's more efficient and timely for the public.
- General updates were given by Pete.
 - The Hillandale Community, Council Member Hucker's staff and Pete will be meeting on Monday, April 2nd with Planning Board Chair Casey to discuss the lack of funding for the Hillandale Park; Pete and Shana reminded the Board how neglected the Park has been for decades including storm water management issues, old structures and topographic challenges.
 - Pete noted the County applied to Governor Hogan's Office to designate 15 areas as Opportunity Zones, a new Federal program to attract community investment. White Oak is one of the 15.
 - The Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation has been working on a brochure for White Oak. Another draft was presented, but Pete noted there are still corrections MCEDC needs to make.

- The Places of Worship Tour idea was discussed. Pete requested volunteers to assist if the Board wishes to move forward. June noted that Interfaith Works may have done a similar event not long ago and the Board asked Pete to investigate.
- Three responses from local PR firms were received for the marketing of White Oak. Pete is forming a small review committee to choose a vendor and proceed. Tasks are placemaking, branding, logo, and website.
- DGS was not able to provide enough information for the senior living project at Viva White Oak, so it was not discussed.
- Guest Speakers to address curb appeal:
 - Greg Nichols of the Department of Permitting Services explained his duties of post inspection violations and forgiveness. He has a small staff and therefore, they are reactive with complaint-driven actions. Complaints range from illegal businesses, sign pollution, zoning and certain trash violations. Repeat offenders are fined by the courts. Best way to report a complaint is via 311 and Greg's staff will respond within 48 hours or sooner.
 - Andrew Bossi of the Department of Transportation echoed Greg's comments and added DOT handles pothole issues. Also gave updates on BRT: station construction to begin in early 2019, open house dates of April 3rd & 4th. Andrew noted the FDA expansion is not part of the LATIP formula because DOT was not made aware of the expansion until after the formula was complete. It will be addressed with the periodic formula updates to the Council. DOT will be making comments to GSA about the FDA expansion. Andrew updated Board on concept plan by Duffie for a "slip ramp" at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and Elton Road. Positive and negatives, but intention is reducing the number of U-Turns at northbound New Hampshire Avenue and Powder Mill Road.
- Board Comments
 - Barry Wides (absent) let Pete know about another White Oak community clean-up on April 21st. Details coming.
 - Board asked Pete to look into how funds are distributed to the Opportunity Zones.
 - Fizie suggested reaching out to White Oak area schools for student participation in an art contest for the creation of a logo for White Oak.
 - June suggested asking Ryan Homes to help with future funding needs for projects within White Oak.
- From the Public
 - BRT Open Houses on April 3rd and 4th
 - Audience member disputed notion that FDA expansion was not part of the LATIP; claims it was. Pete to check with DOT and Planning Department.
 - Suggestion of becoming a Business Improvement District (BID) or Urban Partnership to help with maintenance and funding.
 - County Executive Candidates Forum on May 17th; 7pm at the East County Regional Services Center.
- Next Steps
 - Next meeting will be May 1, 2018 at 7pm.

- Guests at next meeting will be the SHA and Dept. of Corrections to continue curb appeal chat.
- Consideration of additional Board Members
 - Board voted to close the meeting to the public.
 - Discussion on potential new Board Members was held.
 - Board voted to invite David Feehan of the Gatestone residential community to serve. David has a professional background in community development, which the Board felt would be useful perspective in matters considered by the Board.
 - Pete was given some other potential members in the non-profit, faith-based and business sectors to invite.
- Meeting adjourned.