



# Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 20, 2025

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Held virtual via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89827743604>

Meeting ID: 898 2774 3604, + 1 301 715 859

Call to Order:	Arquilla Ridgell, Chair			Respectfully Submitted by: Meghan Pazmino, Secretary		
Date/Time:	February 20, 2025, 7:00 PM ET					
Attendees:	X	Arquilla Ridgell (Chair)	X	Serge Thomas (Vice Chair)	X	Liza Smith
	X	Carol Kosary	X	Lee Rubenstien		Debra Liverpool
	X	Gary Fellman (Parliamentarian)	X	Ben DuGoff	X	Joan McDermott
	X	Meghan Pazmino (Secretary)	X	Phillip Ardanuy	X	Jonathan Chambers
	X	Rob Fox	X	Rick Gross		Irina Norrell
Staff:	Talia Beaulieu-Hains, Luisa Cardona					
Guests:	Hannah Wilcove (Councilmember Glass’ Office), Jose Ortiz (Councilmember Fani-Gonzalez’ Office)  Bridget Broullire, Montgomery Planning Khalid Afzal, Montgomery Planning Donna Kinerney, Montgomery College James LeBlanc, Work Source Montgomery Devon Hahn, MDOT State Highway Administration					

Time	Topic	Notes
7:02	Call to Order & Welcome	Chair called the meeting to order and reviewed meeting protocols.
7:04	Agenda Minutes	Chair called for a motion to approve the January 2025 minutes. Serge moved to approve the minutes. Carol 2nd. January 2025 minutes are approved.  Meghan moved to approve the agenda for the meeting. Serge 2nd. Agenda approved.

7:04	Elected Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hannah Wilcove, Councilmember Glass' Office           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Following federal government changes closely and preparing for what it means. Updates were made to the resources page on the councilmember website. If there's any way the Councilmember's office can help, reach out and they will see what they can do.</li> <li>○ Two of CM Glass' bill passed:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ UVISA--removes arbitrary barriers and makes it easier for people to apply for protected victim status. Bill passed unanimously. Specific crimes are covered and Montgomery County will certify that victims are assisting with law enforcement. The bill also removes the 10 year statute of limitations.</li> <li>■ Impact Taxes--changes the time that impact taxes are collected on new development These taxes are used to maintain infrastructure and maintain schools. Moved to collecting at the end and not beginning of construction. Eases the burden on the developer so new housing can be built. It doesn't change the amount of revenue, it just eases the burden of the upfront cost and makes the county a more attractive place to build. If we need to build more housing, we need to make it more affordable to build.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Question: How can we spread the word about connecting with different government offices?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Anyone who needs help, we are fully staffed and working to connect people with whoever it is that can help them.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Given the reduction in federal workforce, does it make sense to encourage building and development?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ I will pass on the concern. I'm not the person in our office on housing so I'm not prepared to speak on the issue right now. We always have someone attend the CAB meetings so we can hear what the concerns are and pass them on to the appropriate person.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Jose Ortiz, Councilmember Fani-Gonzalez's office           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We are also very concerned about what's going on at the federal level and how it's impacting us on the local level.</li> <li>○ Councilmember Fani-Gonzalez is working on the More Housing Now Act. The mission of this act is to allow for more new construction to take place in the areas of public transportation, the main avenues, and to make it easier for developers to build more units. The county has a shortage of housing--we should be building 6,000 new units and we're not even half of that mark. We have close to half a million renters and it's not enough for everyone. This bill isn't going to solve the issue because it's a market driven problem and it's not unique to us. There will be a town hall on February 27 at 6:30 pm at the Wheaton HS Cafeteria.</li> <li>○ There will also be a town hall on February 24 at 10 am about regulations to open new restaurants.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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7:30	WorkSource Montgomery	<p><b>James LeBlanc, Director WorkSource Montgomery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The county's lead workforce development center</li> <li>• Our comprehensive center is in Wheaton on Georgia Avenue, but we also have locations in Germantown and a satellite location at the East County Education Center, a mobile unit, a team inside the jail in Boyds, and the Justice Empowerment Center to work with returning citizens.</li> <li>• We are all about services and all of our services are free. We have a target population but we don't turn anyone away. Targeted populations include those using public assistance, returning citizens, older workers, single parents, unemployed, veterans, disabled persons, English learners, and dislocated workers.</li> <li>• We have a community asset map that we work to keep current that has different organizations that can assist.</li> <li>• Skill Up Montgomery is a free online platform where you can get industry recognized credentials free of charge.</li> <li>• Job seeker services: we provide access to technology, job boards, training, career and aptitude assessments, hiring events, unemployment information and referrals to community resources.</li> <li>• Training Services: wraparound case management, occupational skills training, job placement assistance, subsidized employment, 12 months post-employment case management.</li> <li>• Career Education: we have career advisors inside all middle and high schools in the county, introducing careers to students. They use the RIASEC assessment, which helps students identify their top three traits (realistic, investigative, artistic, social, enterprising, conventional) and then helps them think about things that use those skills. It gets young people thinking about who they are and how that relates to a career down the road.</li> <li>• If you have a referral, you can send James an email directly and he will connect them.</li> <li>• Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What types of jobs are you connecting people with? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The scope is whatever your resume calls for. We have people who go out and build relationships with businesses to find jobs. You get a career advisor who works with you, we'll try to find a job for you. If you're an astronaut, we'll try to find a job for you.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Do you anticipate feeling overwhelmed? Will you be able to grow your staff or provide more services with a great deal more people out of work? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ We're not seeing any more money coming down the pipe to expand our services, but we are going after private foundation money.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7:49		<p><b>Donna Kinerney, Montgomery College Immigrant Services and Community Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I'm a dean in workforce development and I have the largest of three programs that work specifically with English language learners</li> <li>• We have a comprehensive set of services, from very basic English</li> </ul>

		<p>to academic and workforce and career English. We have a lot of supports and services through partnerships, placement tests, referrals to other agencies, career advice, and referrals to food banks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three programs: Adult ESOL and basic skills, ESL noncredit, and English Language for Academic Purposes--These programs are all goal driven, you can jump around based on what you need.</li> <li>• ESL - Noncredit charges tuition, English Language for Academic Purposes charges tuition but has financial aid</li> <li>• The Adult ESOL &amp; Basic Skills Unit has several programs. All are funded with a combination of federal, state, and local grants. Most programs are minimal cost, like students buying textbooks. We work with English learners, immigrants, or students needing a high school diploma regardless of the language they speak.</li> <li>• Our most effective model is combining a workforce and degree model. You might come to us and be interested in becoming some kind of a healthcare worker. You have a choice of English classes, including an ESOL for healthcare jobs. Then you get into some nursing and medical courses, but these courses have an ESOL teacher and the content teacher in the same room helping so they are learning the English language and workforce content at the same time.</li> <li>• Pathways: Healthcare Jobs, Building Trades, Technology Jobs, Education Jobs (All the intermediate to advanced level classes also have an ESOL teacher in the room.)</li> <li>• There's a career navigator helping people get employed after completing programs and supporting them once they are hired.</li> <li>• Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Are you worried about losing federal grant funding? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ They are currently in place, but of course we have to assume we will lose them. Some of our funding is secure, but a huge chunk of our funding is at risk. We're concerned about everything.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
8:00		<p><b>Bridget Broullire, Montgomery Planning</b>  <b>Khalid Afzal, Montgomery Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We're here to talk about the Community Planning Academy</li> <li>• If you're interested in a future meeting, we can have an additional presentation on the development process as well as a demographic and growth overview presentation.</li> <li>• The Community Planning Academy came out of the development Review Process Work Group in 2023. The goal is to provide residents with knowledge of the planning process.</li> <li>• First cohort launches Summer 2025, it will be mobile friendly and in multiple languages, with in person opportunities to meet. We want to welcome those normally not part of the planning process into the academy so they can better advocate for their communities and themselves.</li> <li>• We understand the planning process is complicated, so we're trying to demystify it.</li> <li>• Our online model will have up to 50 participants to test it out. The</li> </ul>

		<p>full county launch will be in the fall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 8 asynchronous online models, with opportunities for in-person and virtual meetings. We want to make sure there's time to meet with staff and with each other. About 30-40 minutes per module with a 6-10 question learning check, and a downloadable one-page summary.</li> <li>● Equity-focused recruitment and enrollment: Enroll up to 50 residents, at least 50% from underrepresented communities; a monetary incentive for the cohort group who will be providing feedback.</li> <li>● An easy to use interactive platform, Absorb LMS. You can do it on your own time, at your own pace, on your phone.</li> <li>● Ideally those who go through the planning academy will be able to be more involved in the community.</li> <li>● Timeline: Finishing up production this spring, first cohort will launch in June, and then fall 2025 we will launch countywide enrollment</li> <li>● Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How long is the commitment? Are you sitting in a classroom? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ For the summer it's condensed so they have to get it done within a set timeline.</li> <li>■ For the fall cohorts, it will be more flexible. We are still working out more details on things like a graduation.</li> <li>■ In person events wouldn't be mandatory, but would be available for anyone who wants that. None of the in person stuff is required. We want to make it easy for people to participate. The basic course is all online.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Who is your target audience? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ We would be looking to pull at least 50% of the first cohort from the zip codes and census tracts that are historically underrepresented.</li> <li>■ We also had a request to do different versions of this for county staff and homeowners associations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ This is a great idea. Every county should have this. How can we get the word out? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ We're going to package up the information, an e-flyer, and content in multiple languages. We're going to do targeted ads online. We want to make sure a consistent message gets out there. \$150 gift cards to those in the first cohort.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Will the videos be in multiple languages? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Yes, we have the budget to do multiple languages. We'll have English, Spanish and Mandarin for this first cohort.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Why are you including everyone? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ It's really the average resident that doesn't know how to reach the Board. It's super complicated and technical, so we wanted to make sure we were hitting people who might be involved in land use and don't</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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		<p>even know it. They might see cranes going up in their neighborhood but don't realize that impact taxes are paying for a park. We want them to see they really have a role and a voice in their community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ If there's a resident who is trying to go into the business, we will help them learn about the process.</li> <li>● We also want to hear feedback about what content should be in here. If you have ideas, let us know so we can get it in there.</li> <li>● The Planning Board is 100% behind this, they would like to see the numbers increase for sign ups for public comments.</li> </ul>
8:25	MD 97 at Henderson Avenue	<p><b>Devon Hahn, MDOT State Highway Administration, SHA District 3 Traffic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We are looking at pedestrian improvements and want to make sure you are aware of the improvements and that it makes sense.</li> <li>● This intersection has a marked crosswalk, numerous pedestrian warning signs, and bus stops on northeast and northwest sides.</li> <li>● It can be a daunting intersection to cross at.</li> <li>● 50% of crashes resulted in injury, a pedestrian was struck by a left-turn motorist, motorists were observed not stopping for pedestrians.</li> <li>● We would like to install a pedestrian hybrid beacon and partially close the median on MD 97. The median would be restricted to northbound left only.</li> <li>● The beacons would encourage people to do what they should be doing already--stop for pedestrians.</li> <li>● Questions/comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How did this come to be studied? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Someone went to the website and put in a concern so District 3 went out and collected the counts and the crash data.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ What is the hybrid beacon? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The light will normally be dark, but when a pedestrian pushes to cross, it will flash to warn cars to slow, will turn solid red, pedestrians can cross, and then it flashes so cars know they can continue.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Consider adding something to facilitate turns.</li> <li>○ Why is there no crosswalk on the south side of Henderson? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ There are no sidewalks on the south side.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ What stage is this project in? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ This is not fully funded even for design, it would have to go through all the approvals.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ What is the red on the plan? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Just illustrative of a median, the designers would have to plan what material it would be.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Why is it a left turn only? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ We wanted to reduce the number of people turning across the crosswalk.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ It may not be the easiest crosswalk but we have a population who needs it trying to get to the healthcare facility</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<p>so we want to make it as safe as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The light pictured looks like what's on Tuckerman, and there drivers speed up to get through before stopping. I think because after the person crosses, it stays red for a while. On Nebraska Ave in DC, there were flashing crosswalk signs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ We wanted to make sure vehicles actually stop. When it's yellow, you don't have to stop like when it's red.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ You really need a camera catching the license plates of people who don't stop. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ We do have a standard formula for how long it stays red. We have some elderly crossers out there so we want to make sure our most vulnerable users get curb to curb safely.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
8:53	Board Business	No board business.
8:53	Mid-County Director Update	Luisa will share a collection of resources for federal employees and immigrant communities.
8:54	WUDAC	No updates.
8:54	Community Concerns	<p><b>Community Member:</b> Return to office will result in changing traffic patterns. Is the county doing any planning on that in terms of how lights are being changed or police monitoring for accidents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Not yet, we don't know the direct impacts. We are tracking how many people are still getting certain services, are requests for rental assistance increasing?</li> <li>● There are redesigns to bus routes and there were a lot of people there sharing feedback about stops needed because of return to office.</li> <li>● We are also in talks with WMATA and they have seen an increase in usage.</li> </ul> <p><b>Open Parks Program:</b> Beach Drive is closed on the weekends for recreational use. Most people are upset that the segment between Knowles and Cedar is closed on Friday and it's right next to a school. Parents can't even drop off their kids because of the closing times. What really has people upset is that Montgomery Parks made the proposal and the Planning Board accepted it. More than <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> of the people that responded to a survey don't want to see it closed on Fridays. Only one Planning Board member was concerned about neighborhoods next to it being adversely impacted, they only cared about the recreation aspect. Are there recommendations? There's some confusion about jurisdiction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Luisa: My understanding is it's Parks. I think it's valid to request that they revisit the decision as a lot has changed.</li> </ul> <p>I think most people are ok with the closure over the weekend, it's the weekday that has a negative impact on our neighborhoods.</p>

		We will take up at the Executive Board Meeting on March 6.
9:05		<p>Serge moved to adjourn the meeting.  Ben 2nd.  Vote to adjourn unanimous.  Meeting adjourned by Chair at 9:05 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEXT MCCAB MEETING: March 20, 2025</b>  <b>NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (members only):</b>  <b>March 6, 2025</b></p>