



Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) Meeting Summary

Mid-County Regional Services Center, 2424 Reddie Drive, Wheaton, MD

Call to Order:	Greg Intoccia, Chair				Respectfully Submitted by: Oriole Saah, Secretary	
Date/Time:	October 20, 2015; 7:00 PM ET					
Attendees:	X	Intoccia, Gregory (Chair)		Lahr, Patrick (Vice Chair)	X	Shoenberg, Robert
	X	Saah, Oriole (Secretary)	X	Mansori, Hasan		St. Gerard, Henriot
		?	X	Newman, Rick		Walker, Will
	X	Adjogah, Mensah		Owusukoko, Kimberly		Lynch, Maisie
		Bonilla, Luis				
Staff:	Jewru Bandeh, Acting Director, Mid-County Regional Services Center					
Guests:	R. Marcelo Cortez, P.E., PMP, CCM, Department of Transportation Cpt. Laura Lanham, Captain, MCPD District 4					

APPROVED

Call to Order and Introductory Remarks: 7:10PM by Greg Intoccia

Introduction, Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes

Motion and acceptance of agenda was approved.

Motion and acceptance of minutes was approved.

Community Concerns: none raised

Old Business:

Committee Chairs:

- Selection of Quality of Life Chair: Oriole Saah
- Appointment of Land Use, Zoning, and Transportation Chair: Rick Newman

Retreat – tabled for now due to the slow start of the year (not having full membership) and awaiting finalization of the appointment of the permanent Mid-County Regional Services Center Director

Movable feast (holding meetings in the community to meet with community members) – also on holding pending installation of new Director.

Guest Speaker – Cpt. Laura Lanham, 4th District:

Police/Safety update



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- Montgomery County currently conducting a body camera pilot.
- Began June 2015.
- State Legislature formed a committee in Annapolis to study the use of cameras

- Cost issues – including initial equipment costs and data storage
- Privacy issues – Maryland law allows broad access to public documents. This data would be included.
- Currently 80 cameras “on the road”
- Unresolved issues – use of evidence in court and technical capabilities. Can faces be blurred? Can portions be redacted? When will cameras be worn/turned on in schools?
- Cameras will be on during police actions.
- Victims of sexual assault must give consent to be recorded.
- People being recorded will be notified as soon as it is safe to do so, as early as possible when an interaction occurs
- Goal: full participation
- Q&A
 - Question: can a prospective employer get “all video of x person?”
 - Answer: Anyone can submit Freedom of Information requests. Should the law be tweaked to take the person hours needed to review tapes into consideration?
 - Question: How does the video look? What is the range of vision of the cameras? What is the battery life?
 - Answer: There are three types of cameras: worn middle of chest, worn on glasses, worn middle of chest. The middle of chest model seems to be the most popular & practical because the movement of the officer’s arms is not impeded. It is a 4x4 wireless box. The other two models require wires. Batteries are rechargeable. Each officer is issued two units so one can be in use while the other is charged.
 - Question: Will the use of cameras support convictions and reduce disputes?
 - Answer: We have not had enough time-in-use yet. Officers have expressed support for the cameras because it gets them out of the courtroom faster. The pilot only started at the end of July. There have been technical issues. There is no end date set for the pilot. Hoping it will evolve to permanent status.
 - Question: Do the cameras hinder performance of duties?
 - Answer: There are more legal and technical issues than safety issues. There are union and labor issues. When a decision is made in Annapolis, will the state law match what Montgomery County has? Also, there has been an issue with the public taking video and editing or truncating what is posted. MVS (mobile



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video) has already been helpful in this area by showing an unedited version of a full encounter.



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- Do the devices slow officer responses?
 - Answer: Officers should focus on safety first. There is no requirement to turn on the camera first before entering a police action. Cpt. Lanham expressed a concern that police work isn't pretty.
- Will the cameras be on for witness interviews?
 - Answer: Officers previously used audio recording for interviews, so yes. And an officer can also dictate information as a situation develops for use later in a report.
- How is overall morale?
 - Answer: Morale is mixed. Media coverage of police is often negative. But often things like Bethesda residents dropping by police stations to deliver goodies and thank you notes from members of the public help.

Guest Speaker – Marcelo Cortez, Capital Projects Manager, Department of Transportation, Division of Parking Management/Engineering:

Showed drawings to illustrate what the Wheaton Redevelopment planned for Parking Lot 13 and the current county services building will look like, both outside and inside. There will open space and an amphitheater in the current location of the county services building. There will be as 120 foot tall office building including 12,000 square feet of retail on the first level and four levels of below-ground parking. There will be a 6,000 square foot day care center on the third floor, a second floor IRC/Park & Planning hearing room, and multiple opportunities for public art.

Reddie will remain open to two way traffic, with an additional left turn lane to access Georgia Avenue, except during special events.

It is not yet known where MCCAB will meet during or after construction.

Council Reports

- Adam Fogel shared a memo from Council Member Nancy Navarro to County Executive Ike Leggett requesting funds needed in the upcoming budget regarding the Wheaton Arts & Humanities plus Health & Human Services facilities
 - Navarro does not want to lose momentum on this issue and wants to capitalize on the Wheaton Redevelopment and new library/community center.
 - We need public meeting space
 - Request that MCCAB echo this message.
 - This request is asking for planning and preparation, not yet requesting construction funds.



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- This initiative also supports the Nightlife/Urban Center/daytime economy.

- Question raised about status of feasibility study for Olney Town Center. A work group has been pursuing this goal for 10 years. Need a professional feasibility study and need funding for it in this budget. Fogel said he would share this request with Nancy Navarro.
- Board of Elections & early voting sites
 - New Wheaton Rescue Squad will be a new early voting location
 - Also, Mid County Community Recreation center at Queensguard
 - Montgomery County is retaining all nine sites used in 2014
 - Montgomery County requesting a 10th site would be in Potomac.
 - Early voting opens eight days prior to the election and ends with a short gap before Election Day.
- Thank you to Jewru from Nancy Navarro for filling in as Acting Director. Chair, Greg Intoccia, added appreciation for the behind-the-scenes efforts needed to support MCCAB.

Director Report

- The new director will be Louisa Montero-Diaz. She wasn't available to meet with us tonight because she is chairing a Nonprofit Montgomery meeting.
- Working to find temporary locations for all services currently housed in the Reddie Drive government center.
- Question about the membership status of MCCAB. Does one opening remain & do we need to conduct interviews? Full membership is 15. One person who was recommended is not a resident of the mid-county area. We do not need to interview the prospective replacement. There was no communication with MCCAB's chair that one recommended member would not be selected. Jewru made it clear that member selection is the prerogative of the Executive and the Council approves the selections. The Executive is not compelled by law to justify the selections.

Committee Reports

Committees have not yet met. LUTZ will "dig deeper" into the funding mechanism for the proposed Independent Transit Authority.

Liaison Reports

Department of Permitting – no representative assigned

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee – requesting funding for a feasibility study. Their charge was to create a public space/town center and insure that development follows the guidelines of the master path. MCCAB requests that the Chair of the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee speak to MCCAB.



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PEPCO Community Group – PEPCO/Exelon merger may be on again. The committee has been on hold but may be reforming.

Wheaton Library/Recreation Center – this item should be removed from the Liaison Reports. The group has been disbanded.

WUDAC – representative not present

New Business

- Questions about Sean Corbett’s reappointment rejection and the need for MCCAB ranks to be filled in a timely fashion each year to enable the Board to function fully. Quality of Life will look at the process of appointments/reappointments
 - How are decisions made?
 - How can the process be improved to promote the timeliness of appointments?
 - Bob Schoenberg will draft a letter to address the second question
 - Acting Directory Jewru Bandeh provided input
 - The county executive handles multiple boards and commissions
 - The previous director departed during the transition to online application for board membership and recommended waiting for the new director to come on board before pursuing new members but the Acting Director chose not to do this
 - It is the prerogative of the administration to make appointments and the executive is not compelled to disclose the reasons for choices made.
- Should MCCAB consider the creation of an economic development committee in addition to the existing LUTZ and QoL? It was agreed that most economic development issues fit within the description of one of the two existing committees but board members agreed to the need to keep an eye on broader issues and the development of the new and independent Economic Development entity.
- The request to support Navarro’s Arts & Humanities memo was referred to the QoL committee.
- The question, raised at the last meeting, about the source and frequency of traffic and other alerts was referred to the QoL committee.
- Oriole Saah made a motion to extend the meeting by five minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.
- Use of email by Board members – all present discussed the need to communicate between/before meetings vs. the need for privacy and the prohibition on conduction committee business via email. It was agreed that the content of email should not be shared publically. The Acting Director plans to share email with the Chair so he can communicate with Board members in preparation for meetings. Oriole Saah moved that the Chair contact each member and request permission to share individual email with all participating members (meaning all members who also give permission to use personal email addresses). Each member can give or withhold permission in private communication with the Chair. The motion was seconded and approved.



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- QoL: Oriole made a formal request for someone from Leggett's office to speak to the committee about the member selection process and Leggett's philosophy on the purpose of Boards such as MCCAB. A duplicate email request will follow.

Formal Elections: Committee Chair & Parliamentarian

- Parliamentarian -- Bob Schoenberg self-nominated. Elected by secret ballot with 15 voting members present, nine in favor, five abstaining.
- Oriole Saah previously agreed to Chair the QoL Committee. She was nominated.
- Hearing no nominations for LUZT, Chair Intoccia appointed Rick Newman to Chair the LUZT committee. Newman accepted.
- Both Chairs elected by voice vote.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn meeting approved at 9:12pm.