



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary May 21, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Arthur Edmunds and introductions were done.

The meeting summary from April 23, 2018 was approved by unanimous vote. (moved by K. Linck; seconded by D. Kerr)

Update from the County Council – Sharon Ledner (Councilmember Rice) informed the board on recent and upcoming Council activities that included among others, a preliminary vote on the operating budget for fiscal year 2019, and the State’s recent community open house to inform residents on their I-270 / I-495 traffic improvement project.

Update from the Regional Director – Among several announcements, Regional Director Catherine Matthews shared that the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board awarded funds to the County’s Department of Transportation to prepare a short-range transit plan for a corridor not currently served by bus routes and that corridor will be from the Shady Grove Metrorail Station to the Metropolitan Grove MARC Station. The Office for Community Use of Facilities (CUPF) is hosting its first public forum of the year on June 6 and the Parks Department is hosting a grand opening of the new Laytonia Recreational Park on June 10. Ms. Matthews also announced that recruitment for new board members had begun with the deadline for applications being June 22.

Discussion – Guests from the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation, Chairman Bob Buchanan and President/CEO David Petr, updated the board on the Corporation’s activities over the past two years. They asked the board to help identify places in the northern part of the county that should be highlighted when they meet with prospective businesses. Their website has been redesigned to feature “MoCo 365,” a campaign to change the narrative about the county. Board observation and comments included marketing ideas, obstacles to attracting businesses, how a second crossing would impact the business climate, the regional perspective, consequences of having and not having Amazon select the county, the Supreme Court’s recent ruling on local sports gambling, and how the National Cybersecurity Center for Excellence might have a higher profile in the county.

Chair’s Report – Mr. Edmunds announced that the election of officers for next year will take place at the June meeting.

Committee/ Liaison Reports – none.

Community Concerns/Comments – Resident Gabe Chikes asked how might Amazon view the outcome of the primary election in their deliberation of locations. Mr. Petr responded that political certainty is important for businesses so Amazon officials will probably watch closely for the election results.

The meeting was adjourned. (T. Printz-Platnick moved; Roberts seconded)

Board Attendance: Dennis Barnes, Andrew DiBonge, Hassan Dixon, Arthur Edmunds, Mark Firley, Mamady Kamara, Darlene Kerr, Kevin Linck, Bethzaida McGuire, Linda Moore, Tobi Printz-Platnick, William Roberts, David Rosenbaum, Tanya Sun, Cheng Tu, Kraig Walsleben, Alan Young.

Visitors: Meaghann Diez, Sharon Ledner, Warren Hansen, Commander Darren Francke, Lt. Jason Cokinos, Yi Shen, Gabe Chikes.

Staff: Catherine Matthews, Linda Cooper