



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary September 17, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kraig Walsleben and introductions were done.

The meeting summary from July 16, 2018 was approved by unanimous vote. (moved by K. Linck; seconded by L. Moore)

Regional Director's Report – Director Catherine Matthews announced that the Regional Offices had received an award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for the work done in community problem-solving using Neighborhood Action Teams; multi-agency teams convened and led by the Regional Directors in resolving community issues. Ms. Matthews announced that the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee would receive the annual Royce Hanson Award in October. She also referred the board and visitors to other items in the Upcounty Today! newsletter.

Deputy Chief John Kinsley (Operations) and Deputy Chief Alan Hinde (Volunteer and Community Services) from the county's Fire and Rescue Service briefed the board on the recent fire at the commercial recycling facility in Clarksburg. Although they were successful in putting out the fire without any injuries, there is concern that, shortly after responding to the location, there was a complete failure of radio communication for a time. This underlines the importance of the county completing the plan to get additional public safety communication towers in place as soon as possible.

County Council Report – Sharon Ledner from Councilmember Craig Rice's office updated the board on ZTA 18-03 (Farm Alcohol Production), ZTA 18-11 (Small Cell Towers), the construction to improve the Rt 355/Brink Road intersection, the status of the West Old Baltimore Road improvement project, and the Frederick Road Bike Path project. She also announced that Councilmember Rice was sponsoring an economic development discussion and resource fair at the Universities at Shady Grove. Yi Shen from Councilmember Sidney Katz' office announced that the Councilmember had been told by the State Highway Administration (SHA) that the State would not take any properties in their I-270 improvements underway. They will stay within the State rights-of-way. Ms. Ledner reminded the board that the State decided a couple of months ago to divide the I-270 project into two phases with the area near the Beltway I-495 addressed first. The I-270 corridor would be addressed in 2019.

Police Report – none.

Chairperson's Report – Board Chair Mr. Walsleben announced that board members' attendance had improved.

Discussion – The Rustic Road Program – Guests Atiq Panjshiri from the county's Permitting Department, and Bob Tworowski, who chairs the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee presented an overview of the program, its successes and challenges. The committee is trying to get a disclosure statement on real estate sales contracts to notify homebuyers about rustic roads. Ms. Matthews shared a concern she had received from a resident that, although the brown street signs that identify rustic roads are appreciated, the writing is hard to see at dusk and after dark. Mr. Tworowski will explore options for improving the visibility of the wording on the signs. A general discussion followed with questions and comments from the board.

Committee/Liaison Reports – Land Use Committee Chair Will Roberts announced that their next meeting would be October 1st with a presentation on the custom crush facility that is planned in the Poolesville area. Quality of Life Committee Chair Hassan Dixon announced that the committee had invited the leaders of the Thriving Germantown Initiative to discuss the program and progress that has been made. Mr. Walsleben, Liaison to the Dickerson Facilities Implementation Group (DFIG), updated the board on the operations at the Resource Recovery Facility and the Yard Trim Composting Facility.

Community Concerns – Resident Rosemary Arkoian encouraged the board to continue to inform the soon-to-be-elected Councilmembers and community residents of issues.

The meeting was adjourned (K. Linck moved, B. McGuire seconded).

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

Visitors: Yi Shen (Councilmember Katz), Sharon Ledner (Councilmember Rice), Paul Klee, Hammet Hough, Laura Van Etten from Rustic Roads, Robert Nelson, Rosemary Arkoian.

Staff: Catherine Matthews, Linda Cooper