



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

### Meeting Summary November 20, 2017

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

The meeting summary from October 16, 2017 was approved by unanimous vote. (moved by D. Kerr; seconded by K. Walsleben).

**Update from the County Council** – See notes below from County Councilmember Craig Rice (*District 2*). In addition, Chief of Staff to Councilmember Elrich, Dale Tibbitts, announced that the Council's leadership would change as usual with the first meeting in December. In addition, on December 12, the Council would discuss Bill 23-17 which addresses concerns about protecting performance animals.

**Update from the Regional Director** – Regional Director Catherine Matthews announced that Harriet Berger, founder and former executive director of the Peppertree Children's Center, had passed away. Peppertree is located at the Kramer Upcounty Regional Services Center and was an original tenant service once the building was completed. Ms. Matthews also announced that the Kramer Upcounty Regional Services Center will be undergoing a year-long construction project to replace all of the building's windows. Services and programs will continue to operate.

**Discussion** – A Council Perspective from Councilmember Craig Rice (*District 2*). Councilmember Rice discussed and answered questions about a range of topics: community infrastructure in Clarksburg; cell tower antennas; the Charter Review Commission's proposal to restructure the Council; education; licenses for home-based businesses, and more.

**Chair's Report** – Chairperson Arthur Edmunds announced that the dates for the board's full board meeting and the Quality of Life Committee are now switched. The Quality of Life Committee will now meet on January 22. The full board will meet on January 29 and that meeting will serve as the hosting of County Executive Leggett's annual public forum on the next operating budget.

**Committee/ Liaison Reports** – Board member William Roberts reviewed the Land Use Committee's visit to the county's Transportation Management Center (TMC). Council staff Dale Tibbitts mentioned the recent upgrade to the TMC's traffic management system. Ms. Matthews noted that UCAB has recommended the upgrade for many years. Board member Alan Young reviewed the Quality of Life Committee's visit to the Cybersecurity Lab on Montgomery College's Germantown campus. One point learned was that most four-year colleges teach technology theory, and not practical hands-on applications. Montgomery College's program is filling that void for students and for adults currently in the workforce who return to get that practical knowledge and skills. Board member Cheng Tu, liaison to the Shady Grove Sector Plan Implementation Advisory Committee, announced that the Planning Board will review a Preliminary Plan Amendment for Shady Grove Station. This amendment is focused at the southwestern area of Shady Grove Road and Crabbs Branch Way. The prior approval permitted an office building in this location and the amendment is requesting approval for retail at the site. Board member Darlene Kerr announced that the next meeting of the Permitting Services Advisory Committee was approaching, and that Mr. Edmunds will now assume the position of liaison to that committee.

Board members offered ideas for future meetings: State's comments on the winning bid for the I270 improvements; an update on youth issues and the organizations serving them; an explanation from MCPS on their process for assigning students to Upcounty schools from other areas of the county; update on "Thriving Germantown," a new initiative to provide services to children and track their progress; update on preparations for the 2020 Census; and an update on bringing universal pre-K programs to the county.

**Community Concerns/Comments** – none.

The meeting was adjourned. (Linck moved; McGuire seconded)

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

*Visitors: Dale Tibbitts (Elrich); Yi Shen (Katz); Sharon Ledner (Rice); Warren Hansen (Berliner); Robert Nelson; Rosemary Arkoian; and K. Walsleben..*

*Staff: Catherine Matthews, Linda Cooper*