



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

January 8, 2024

- 6:45 p.m. Quality of Life sub-committee letter to the County Executive (Police/Public Safety Support Letter) as well as the letter regarding public recreational fields. (Sub-committee vote, full board vote in full board meeting at 7PM.)
- Police letter – Steve Augustino moved, Amanda Franklin seconded, motion carried unanimously
 - Recreational Fields – no action was taken, letter will be discussed at our next meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Call to Order and Welcome
- 7:01 p.m. Roll Call (below)
- 7:02 p.m. Review/Approve minutes from 12.18.23 meeting
- Adopted without objection
- 7:04 p.m. Police Report
- Cmdr. Dillman – Recent increase in anti-Semitic bomb threats (part of national trend)
 - Cmdr. Pallas – Positive bystander intervention
 - Stave Robinson asked a question about the “smash and grab” at a gun store in Damascus → No arrests at this time, but law enforcement has identified suspects
 - Lt. Cox – Good news about the Cider Mill community, where there were under 100 calls for service in December for the first time in months
- 7:15 p.m. Update from Councilmember Dawn Luedtke
- Preserving the Damascus HS automotive program is a priority
 - Technical amendments to the juvenile justice system in the MGA are expected this legislative session
 - Working to improve hiring bonuses and retirement benefits to increase hiring of officers
 - Concerns that restrictions on prior cannabis use will prevent many young people from becoming law enforcement
 - Drone pilot program potentially coming to Gaithersburg and Germantown as they have found a new site to host it. Co-sponsored w/ Councilmember Marilyn Balcombe
 - Airpark liaison committee has been revived
 - Two bills to highlight this year:
 - Crisis intervention teams
 - Creating a voluntary 911 call registry
 - Wants to engage more people via “Local Government 101” so folks can testify on legislation that they care about in the Maryland General Assembly
 - Paul Klee asked about a ZTA that Councilmember Natali Fani-Gonzalez proposed
 - Councilmember Luedtke explains that the state approved a definition of agro-tourism to include camping and “incidental outdoor stays” and Councilmember Fani-Gonzalez’s proposal would extend that to Montgomery County. Councilmember Luedtke doesn’t support this ZTA in its current form because of uncertainty over the definition of “incidental outdoor stays” and a desire to protect

the ag reserve. She is in discussion with the Montgomery Countryside Alliance and other organizations in the Ag Reserve.

- Question from the public about meeting with Constituents, will be connected offline

7:35 p.m.

Damascus High School Auto program: MCPS Board of Education Member Grace Rivera-Oven and others will talk about the auto program at Damascus High School.

- Board of Education Member Grace Rivera-Oven was an automotive student in High School opposes efforts to eliminate the program at Damascus. She is currently working to protect it.
- Mr. Ortiz:
 - MCPS was going to cancel it for lack of a facility during the rebuild, even if the school system were to add a new one upon completion
 - There has been discussion of sending students to SVHS, but he argues that is not workable
 - Meeting this Wednesday at 6pm in Damascus HS to discuss the issue
- Heard from 6 Students of the program from the last 3 decades and the President of the Auto Trades Foundation
 - Inspired a passion for manufacturing work
 - Moved students into good jobs (6 figure salaries right out of High School)
 - Desperate need for mechanics in local repair shops
 - Inspired numerous lifelong career
 - Students will not make the drive to Seneca Valley HS
 - 4 programs in Montgomery County, overseen by the Auto Trades Foundation, which certifies them → President states that there is a need to expand these programs, not cut them back

Wayne Jacas moved and Christel Bivens seconded that we will write a letter for consideration at the next Full Board Meeting.

8:30 p.m.

Vote on letter to the County Executive (Police/Public Safety Support Letter) as well as the letter regarding public recreational fields.

- Steve Augustino moved and Paul Klee seconded approving, vote was unanimous

8:37

Councilmember Reports

- Brief reports from the offices of Councilmembers Luedtke, Balcombe, Glass, Katz, and Jawando. All thanked Del. Greg Wims for his work as Regional Services Director.

8:40 p.m.

Regional Director's Report

- Final report before Del. Greg Wims goes to Annapolis
- Del. Wims will be advocating for the mechanic shop program in Annapolis

8:49 p.m.

Community Concerns

8:52 p.m.

Adjourn

Note: Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If these or other services or aids are needed to participate in this activity, contact Greg Wims at 240-777-8040 or at greg.wims@montgomerycountymd.gov.

12900 Middlebrook Road, Suite 1000, Germantown, Maryland 20874



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

2022-2023 Board Members and Committees

	Name	Area	Committee
Present	Andrew Saundry, Chair	Germantown	Executive Committee
Present	Amanda Hunt Franklin, 1st Vice Chair	Poolesville	Executive Committee
Present	Christel Bivens, 2nd Vice Chair	Germantown	Executive Committee
Present	Matilda Adu	N. Potomac/Potomac	Quality of Life
Present	Steven Augustino	Gaithersburg	Quality of Life
Present	Wayne Jacas	Boyds/Clarksburg	Quality of Life
Absent	Steve Wambo Kamga	Potomac	
Absent	Hassan Dixon	Germantown	Quality of Life
Present	Jay Guan	Clarksburg	Quality of Life, Chair
Present	Mary Hoel	Laytonsville	Land Use
Absent	Revonne Johnson	Germantown	Quality of Life
Present	Paul Klee	Darnestown	Land Use
Absent	Tangela Nichols	Boyds/Clarksburg	Quality of Life
Present	Christopher O'Brien	Gaithersburg	Quality of Life
Absent	Kraig Walsleben	Damascus	Land Use
Present	Steve Robinson	Damascus	Land Use, Chair

Effective November 2023