

WESTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING March 18, 2013

The meeting was called to order at the Avenel Community Association, 9501 Beman Woods Way, Potomac, MD 20854 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present. Marc Korman, Chair; Jad Donohoe, Vice-Chair; Jane Boynton, Heather Dlhopsky, Margret (Peggy) Dennis, Tara Flynn, Scott Goldberg, Jeffrey R. Hearle, Aileen Klein, Virginia Miller, Nancy Regelin, Robert Schwartzbart and Syed M. Salahuddin.

Minutes of Previous Meeting. Minutes of the Board Meeting held on February 19, 2013 were approved.

County Council Report/Discussion. The Honorable Nancy Floreen, At-Large Member of the Montgomery County Council, gave a general report on Council matters. The Council has begun to consider the Planning Board's proposed amendments to the 1990 Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan and other related County land use measures. These amendments would permit redevelopment of commercial property in the Chevy Chase Lake area at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and Manor Road. Among other matters mentioned, Councilmember Floreen also discussed the FY 2014 operating budget that County Executive Ike Leggett has sent to the Council and said that public hearings would be held on the budget on April 9, 10 and 11. The County Executive's budget would fund the Montgomery County Public School system at the statutory Maintenance-of-Effort level and would add police and fire personnel. It represents a 4 percent increase over the current budget

Following Councilmember Floreen's presentation, matters brought up by questions from Board members, including the so-called Brickyard Road controversy, overtime for police and fire personnel and the level of rent in the county, were discussed.

Presentation/Discussion on Immigrant Integration. Karla Silvestre, Latino Liaison to the County Executive, Office of Community Partnerships and Manager of the Gilchrist Center for Cultural Diversity, gave a presentation on Montgomery County's foreign-born population, which now constitutes 31 percent of county residents. This large number, Ms. Silvestre maintains, demonstrates the importance of an immigration integration plan so that these residents can fully participate in the community life of the county. In connection with her presentation, Ms. Silvestre distributed a Summary of

Recommendations contained in the December 2012 Report of the Latino Youth Collaborative steering Committee.

Presentation/Discussion – Montgomery County Recycling Goals. Eileen Kao, Chief, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection Division of solid Waste Services, gave a presentation on the county's waste reduction and recycling programs. Started in 1970, these programs in 2011 reduced and recycled 57 percent of the county's waste. Currently, 62 percent of the county's waste is reduced and recycled, and the goal is to reduce and recycle 70 percent in 2020.

Ms. Kao is confident that the goal will be reached. She called the Montgomery County the "Poster Child" for waste reduction and recycling.

Director's Report. Ken Hartman reported on the following:

(1) The groundbreaking for the Scotland Neighborhood Recreation Center project will be March 28.

(2) Police officers will conduct a targeted pedestrian safety program, the Street Smart Pedestrian Safety Initiative. It will run April 15-30. In this program, police will stop drivers who don't obey traffic laws, especially drivers who fail to stop and yield to pedestrians before turning right on red or who fail to yield to pedestrians. Police also will stop pedestrians and cyclists who violate the rules of the road.

(3) The county has requested submissions for a new Bethesda headquarters for the 2d Police District. The headquarters will not be located in White Flint, as had previously been suggested.

(4) The bus shelter under the Bethesda Metro station will be closed for 18 months for repair and reinforcement of the concrete floor between the bus shelter and the automobile parking lot below. The time for this closing has not been announced.

Committee/Liaison Reports.

Heather Dlhopsky reported on (1) "village" organizations for parts of the county (e.g., Mohican Hills) intended to give older residents choices that include their desire to continue living in their own homes and (2) the Maryland Public Service Commission is working on the issues that have been raised since the utilities have introduced the use of "smart meters," meters that transmit to a central location data about customers' electricity usage and other aspect of the services provided by the utility.

Virginia Miller discussed the pedestrian underpass under Rockville Pike and high-speed elevators planned to connect Walter Reed National Military Medical Center with the Medical Center Metro station.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.
