



Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 17, 2024

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Held virtual via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89827743604>

Meeting ID: 898 2774 3604, + 1 301 715 8592

Call to Order:	Arquilla Ridgell, Chair			Respectfully Submitted by: Meghan Pazmino, Secretary	
Date/Time:	October 17, 2024, 7:00 PM ET				
Attendees:	X	Arquilla Ridgell (Chair)	X	Serge Thomas (Vice Chair)	Liza Smith
	X	Carol Kosary	X	Lee Rubenstien	X Debra Liverpool
		Gary Fellman (Parliamentarian)	X	Ben DuGoff	X Joan McDermott
	X	Meghan Pazmino (Secretary)	X	Phillip Ardanuy	X Jonathan Chambers
	X	Rob Fox		Rick Gross	VACANT
Staff:	Talia Beaulieu-Hains, Luisa Cardona				
Guests:	Councilmember Evan Glass, Hannah Wilcove (Councilmember Glass Office), Christa Tichy, Deeptaanshu Kumar, Committee Evaluation and Review Board; Dianne Whitaker, Montgomery County Public Library;				

Time	Topic	Notes
7:04	Call to Order & Welcome Meeting Protocols Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board chair called to order. ● Chair reviewed meeting protocols and recognized guest speakers.
	Agenda Minutes	Board has not had a chance to review September minutes before today's meeting, so we will vote on them in November.
7:09	Councilmember Evan Glass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Was previously a Citizen's Advisory Board member, so that's why he makes sure his staff attends every Advisory Board meeting across the county. ● Muffler and engine noise: Earlier this week legislation passed the council to create a pilot program for noise cameras. I was a proud co-sponsor of that legislation. Parameters--it's a pilot, there will be 3 cameras throughout the county. The police department is still figuring out where they will go--one will be in up county in Germantown, another in Burtonsville, and the last one probably in Wheaton. ● I focus a lot of my energy on safe streets. A year ago I passed the safe streets act. On this upcoming Monday the transportation and environment committee will be having a review. The act did four things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1. Required extra time to cross at major intersections. ○ 2. Prohibits right turn on red in downtown areas ○ Requires reports and analyses if there's an incident near a school ○ 4. Requires MCPD to provide a traffic enforcement plan. We got the plan a month ago and is now public if anyone wants to see what we're doing. We had a hearing on it last week. ● Traffic enforcement--more than 300 tickets to cars going 40 mph over the speed limit. Mostly 35 mph zones, so these cars are going 70 mph in a 35. Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring is the single spot with the most tickets. ● Environment committee--working on regulations to make our buildings greener. ● Councilmember Fani-Gonzalez and I partnered to train a restaurant on Narcan and provide it to them. Narcan is available for free, you don't need to call, you can go to any

fire station and ask for Narcan no questions asked. You can keep it in your car, or your purse. If you know any small business who is interested, you can reach out to my office. This is life saving stuff, the county and state provide it for free, we just need more people to know about it.

Questions:

Phil--My background is in meteorology, I admire what Montgomery County is doing to set a carbon neutral future. What are we doing to publicize our net-zero role and promote it more broadly and setting an example?

- **CM Glass:** The green building codes that we have and the process we're undertaking now BEPS--the state of Maryland passed the same law as well. Montgomery County likes to be a leader, so we're moving ahead of the state. The law will apply to any building larger than 25,000 square feet--larger apartment buildings, hospitals, larger commercial buildings. All of them said we need to do this, we just need to figure out how to pay for it. There's a lot of anxiety about paying for upgrades. The green bank is really important. Chris Van Hollen got a federal green bank up and running. We're continuing to lead by example, but we are working with the state and other states and cities.

Debra: Thank you for looking at Georgia Avenue and Aspen Hill and the crazy driving. I request a speed analysis and camera on Layhill Road. I've noticed the speed is outrageous. Do you know how long it takes? Is that under county regulation?

- **CM Glass:** We can help you facilitate getting a machine that tracks speed and lets people know their speed. We have a limit to how many cameras we can have in Montgomery county--that's a state law. Delegate Vaughn Stewart is now chair of the transportation subcommittee. He and I have talked and I said if we want our roads to be safer, we need more automated enforcement. I expect in this upcoming session we'll get more.

Serge: 355 and Shady Grove Road is a hotspot for noise cameras.

- **CM Glass:** No decisions have been made, but there's no shortage around the county. The timing for the pilot program is only a year, so we expect the legislature to extend the timing.

Rob: Has there been any exploration of reciprocity between DC, Maryland, and Virginia so the people who are unsafe don't get to escape accountability?

- **CM Glass:** A Maryland driver last year killed someone on Rock Creek Parkway. He had racked up tens of thousands of dollars of unpaid tickets, his license was unable to be suspended. Reciprocity has to be done at the state level.

		<p>Please reach out to your state legislator if you think this is important.</p> <p>Arquilla: A year ago we had a resident come to our meeting and asked for help on Veirs Mill because it was the same car every night coming through her neighborhood every night. At the time, no one knew about noise cameras, but now a year later.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CM Glass: We hear you, we know this is a problem. It's just a matter of getting the technology in place. You'll have different cars in different places with different noises. We know the modified mufflers and engines when we hear them, so we'll have to work through it to make sure the cameras are working the way we want them. <p>Arquilla: They actually have signs out where I work that say no modified exhaust in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CM Glass: Instead of trying to tackle this on the user end, can't we talk about it higher up the stream. We were told it's actually illegal to modify cars, but we don't have the staff to police that. At inspections, they can easily be removed, so we have no choice but to check it on the road. <p>CM Glass: My messages are always open, I am here to help. We had a meeting with the board of elections and everyone expressed their full faith in our elections.</p>
7:35	Hannah Wilcox	<p>We pride ourselves on constituent services and we really try to respond to everyone who reaches out.</p> <p>HHS is able to do training for groups of 10 or more people, so if that's something you're interested in, reach out and we can help you get that set up.</p>
7:40	Christa Tichy, Director C&T Electrical Contracting	<p>I am actually the first female Master Electrician in the county. I wanted to share my knowledge. I applied for a grant and started the Electrical Careers pathway program at Montgomery College. It was everything from college students to high school students for the summer, students who were receiving GEDs, and even some women. We had all different walks of life coming together. They were learning about the history of electricity, who could do a better splice, and then I made them read. A lot of people don't like to read, but we went around and everyone had a turn. I helped them with resumes, interview practice. They really got excited. At the end of the first cohort, I had support from the council and they showed up and gave the kids some encouragement. We were able to provide a job for these folks in a career with the opportunity to apply for the A program. As long as they showed up on time. I really worked with them on getting up early and showing up on time. Now they're coming to me a couple days a week and they are going out and earning a paycheck. They are learning how to use tools.</p>

		<p>The second cohort started just this past week. I want to continue it and I want to grow it. I've been able to utilize Workforce Montgomery. But I'd really like a permanent location. The biggest challenge is having a vehicle--Metro is doable, but for the early hours there's a challenge there. I'm trying to work through those glitches and that one day I can get these individual through the 5 year program, getting a full time job in the industry. They can stay here, work here, get educated here, and raise their families here.</p> <p>Serge: Do you have a location in mind?</p> <p>Christa: At Montgomery County it was ideal because I had a workspace and every option. Right now I have a computer, no whiteboard, no overhead, and I'm working on a workplace location. Ideally, that's a good question? It would need to be somewhere easily accessible by transit. I like Workforce Montgomery, but I'd have to modify a bit. For the winter, it would be nice to have someplace more user friendly that met the course requirements.</p> <p>Carol: What does MCPS do in terms of preparing students for trades?</p> <p>-Wheaton, Damascus, Seneca</p> <p>Joan: If a student is attending a school that doesn't have a tech program, they would go to school the first few hours, then they would catch a bus to the trade school.</p> <p>Arquilla: I don't know if you can use churches. I did a volunteer program and went to a church called Pathways and they had a similar career readiness program. They had a van to help transport students.</p> <p>We think of just someone with a tool belt, but there are so many more jobs way beyond what we think of electricity. We want to motivate kids to pursue a driver's license and get a vehicle and give them that independence.</p> <p>An electrician who completed a 5-year program is making a 6-figure income. There's a gap in people needed for government and state jobs.</p> <p>Arquilla: If you don't have programs like this, there's going to be a shortage. How long is your training?</p> <p>Christa: My program gets them the basic skills they need and then helps them apply for the program. The programs are strenuous and it's difficult to complete it all. Ideally that would be your apprenticeship program but there are other pathways. I am not an apprenticeship program, I get you ready for it. I can help you apply and get you ready for employment.</p>
8:30	Board Business	Vote on positions: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Parliamentarian

Vice Chair

- Serge was nominated: I feel that I'm in a position where I'd like to do a little more than what I've done. I want to learn more about the operations. The more I learn, the more it helps the community and the more it helps us.
- Rob was vice chair

Chair responsibility: Run meetings, decide who speaks, budget proposal--not time consuming because others helped; any other correspondence if we need to write a letter on behalf of something, you would be responsible for helping with the editing and making the final draft. It is a decision making position.

Parliamentarian--Gary would like to remain.

We don't have the parliamentarian here tonight. We need to vote Serge in as vice chair. We nominate someone, then vote for it.

Vote for Chair: Unanimous for Arquilla

Phil: Nominated Serge for Vice Chair

Debra: 2nd

Vote: Unanimous

Meghan was just voted in as Secretary so she remains.

Parliamentarian:

Phil: I nominate Gary.

Debra: I second.

Vote: Unanimous

Budget Letter Vote: Everyone had a chance to review the letter.

Joan: MCPS and their budgets--I taught at Walter Johnson for 17 years and I'm a parent and I sometimes think that MCPS can spend money freely not necessarily putting it to the best use for our students. I can understand the Council's reluctance to fund them fully without any control or transparency. They have spent huge amounts on technology upgrades and Central Office. What teachers have on their plate is impossible for a human being to accomplish. So if there was some way to comment that we'd like to see money go toward teachers and support personnel, those are the biggest needs. I'm glad the Council is trying to push for transparency, and the letter was #1 priority and that's carte blanche.

There was a suggestion to modify the letter to be more clear how we suggest MCPS spend budget money.

Debra made a motion

		<p>Phil seconded Vote on accepting the letter with the proposed modifications. Unanimously approved with modifications.</p> <p>CERB Report: Will be finalized and submitted shortly.</p>
8:50	Mid County Director's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We just finished budget forums, we have a Spanish language one on November 7. Also CIP budget forums--capital improvements are for infrastructure vs. operating budget. That forum will focus more on long term projects. • Next weekend is HalloWheaton--kid's costume contest, pumpkin painting.
	WUDAC	<p>Shifted to a meeting about urban districts with county officials and community members. Concerns with parking and ticketing--a feeling that Wheaton is treated differently with very aggressive ticketing for going 2 minutes over, but not when parking on sidewalks. The conversation that we need to return to in future sessions was the idea that Wheaton needs more resources and more agile autonomy to make improvements for the community. We have the Urban designation and the Arts District. An idea being floated is the 501c3 that's being formed to create a public-private partnership for public services in a more agile way. There's also a state program called Main Streets that we could also pull in. If we went toward the main street path would it have to lose its Urban Designation, it would not conflict.</p>
9:03	Community Concerns	None
9:04	CERB	Deep from the Committee Evaluation and Review Board joined to hear the discussion about the CERB report.
9:06	Meeting Adjourned	Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Serge moved to adjourn the meeting. Phil 2nd. Meeting adjourned by Chair at 9:06 p.m.