



Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 18, 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

Members: Arquilla Ridgell, Meghan Pazmino, Lee Rubenstein, Rick Gross, Liza Smith, Rob Fox, Serge Thomas, Carol Kosary, Gary Fellman, Philip Ardanuy

Montgomery County Staff: Talia Beaulieu-Hains, Luisa Cardona

Guests: Nkossi Dambita, Clinical Director African American Health Program

Elected Officials: Councilmember Laurie-Anne Sayles, Hannah Wilcove (Representative Councilmember Glass), Ezra Pines, Councilmember Sayles Office

Attendees: Kristine Warner, Sheldon Fishman

Time	Topic	Notes
7:09	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	<p>Chair called for a motion to accept the July agenda. Carol made a motion to accept Agenda, Serge 2nd motion. Agenda accepted.</p> <p>Chair called for a motion to approve May minutes. Serge made a motion to approve May 2024 Minutes, 2nd motion by Carol. Minutes approved by vote.</p>
7:11	Elected Officials	<p>Councilmember Laurie-Anne Sayles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doing a summer listening tour to raise awareness and provide an environment to develop solutions • Recently passed the budget • Highlighted economic opportunities in the county and business corridors that call Montgomery County home • Recently passed legislation: • Bill 824--Residential version of “ban the box” to ensure returning citizens don’t face any barrier to securing housing. Landlords cannot pass criminal background checks or credit checks until an offer to rent has been offered. Only for buildings with 10 or more residents. • 424--Over a billion dollars in cannabis sales, we’ll be receiving about a million dollars every year. We’ll have money in the county that we can reinvest in the communities that need it the most. A commission will be coming to decide where to put these resources. • Reviewing the Great Seneca Master Plan--upgrading the affordable housing, more walkable communities, transit oriented

development in the pipeline

- Landlord Tenant Relations Tenant Protections--Strengthen regulations, so landlords and tenants both understand their rights in regard to rent increases.
- Downtown Silver Spring fire--tenants are protected in buildings without modernized infrastructure. Be on the lookout for upcoming committee meetings.
- Faith Act - Can now build affordable housing on church land, providing tax incentives to encourage churches to build more housing.
- Recently confirmed a new fire chief and a new police chief.

Councilmember Sayles opened the floor to questions:

- Arquilla asked about moving the police station because it's in disrepair; There's only one police station for District 4--Wheaton, Olney, Veirs Mill Road, Leisure World; Budget letter requests attention to our police stations to see what their needs are.
 - Map to see districts and stations:
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=4317830a05654b8f907e65515970a5ba>
- Arquilla asked about money from cannabis sales--can money be directed towards rehabilitation services?
 - CM Sayes response: There's going to be a commission that will review and approve applications
- Arquilla mentioned pedestrian Safety walking home from school--more crossing guards,
 - Resources to put traffic calming devices in that neighborhood after a study
- Hannah Wilcove - Shared joint sessions on Safe Paths to School will continue; Hearing across the county to be more open
- Does the county need more funds for traffic studies and calming?
 - More funds were put into it
 - We're not getting transportation investments from the state
 - State funds Safe Routes to School and Vision Zero
 - There is money, but CIP determines a lot, but new Safe Routes to School legislation we're hoping to be more responsive
 - Ezra Pine shared that more than \$370,000 for Vision Zero was allocated, an increase of 85% from last year (made possible because of a federal grant).
- Serge asked about setting up training for distribution of narcan--will the money from cannabis be used for narcan training? We need more people trained.
 - Response: Department of Health and Human service is working on getting people trained. Putting Narcan in fire stations, no questions asked, putting it in vending machines in schools so it's accessible to schools; definitely coming to the community at the scale that it needs to be;
 - Serge followed up with leveraging social media to reach young people across many languages--you can get help

		<p>and you can be part of the solution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hannah added-- CM Glass had a session in March to share addiction and substance abuse resources-- ○ Luisa - training takes 8 minutes, unless you want the longer version <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chair thanked CM Sayles for sharing about the different projects and answering questions. Luisa thanked her for the event in mid-county last night.
7:48	Elected Officials	<p>Hannah Willcove</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make Office Vacancies Extinct Act passed out of Economic Development Committee. Will come before the full council in the next week or two. Expecting it to pass. ● In conversations with the planning department and One Montgomery Green around the work of the Wheaton Streeter--any questions, comments or concerns, reach out to CM Glass' office to share feedback. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Luisa asked if there is data on vacancy rates so if/when it passes, they can promote the program. Hannah said yes, she can find it to share.
7:54	Guest	<p>Dr. Nkossi Dambita, Clinical Director, African American Health Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We need to work to make our county the healthiest, safest county. It's one of the healthiest in the nation, but there are issues of disparities, particularly with the African American population. ● The vision is for African Americans and residents of African descent to have equal life expectancy and health. ● The most glaring disparity is infant mortality. There are very simple things we can do to bring the rate down, such as access to prenatal care ● Cardiovascular health and diabetes is a major concern--400 million people in the US but 86 million have prediabetes. ● In Montgomery County we target hotspots--Montgomery Village, Takoma Park, Rockville, Germantown, Gaithersburg, Silver Spring ● Screen for high risk pregnancies and for the first year of child's life; Each month we have about 250 moms and babies that the nurses take care of through education and access to prenatal visits and continue to stay in touch with a pediatrician. ● Maternal death--went 8 years without a maternal death in the program until earlier this year; ● Specific focus on heart health and diabetes--people don't know they can have devices to check themselves; If people need the devices we can give it to them. We ask them to do it 16 times a month, they get the reading automatically so if they go into crisis, the staff can get in touch to see if they are taking medication or if there is something stressful happening in their life. ● Rates of HIV and STI are increasing among women, so we are trying to raise awareness and share resources for women to

		<p>protect themselves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mental health resources ● We have retired dentists teaching the basics of ensuring oral health; ● Opioid and fentanyl abuse outreach to students and young people to know that Narcan is available. Will be teaching and distributing Narcan. ● Chronic Disease management classes--hosted almost daily--nutrition, anti-inflammatory lifestyle, diabetes prevention; diabetes self management program; living with chronic pain; healthy habits; stress reduction through yoga; tai chi every Saturday morning; cardio exercises every Saturday in White Oak Recreation Center; ● Hiring for an outreach position--narcan and fentanyl related--youth education and training; <p>Questions:</p> <p>Phil- Are you adequately funded? Do you have data?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More resources means more staff and more resources; the county council has gradually increased their funding each year; <p>Arquilla--Do you turn people away?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One nurse resigned and the caseload became too much so we had to put out a waiting list, but now hired a new nurse who will soon begin seeing patients. Each nurse should have a caseload of 50. <p>Arquilla--It's called the African American health program, but can anyone join, or is it strictly African American?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Absolutely open to anyone. Two sister organizations that are culturally based--Latino and Asian Health Initiatives. <p>Rick--Asked to share the website: https://www.aahpmontgomerycounty.org/</p>
8:33	Board Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One member resigned, we need to bring one member on board--Luisa is waiting to hear back if we can choose the next person on the ranked list since interviews were already done recently. ● We break for August ● Gary--Will be sending out a budget letter draft around August, send back comments, will try to close it up at the September Board Meeting ● Chair nominated Meghan for position of Board secretary; Rick 2nd the nomination; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair called for a vote for Meghan for secretary Rob 2nd the vote; ○ Unanimous with 9 votes. No objections. ● Budget Letter - Give all our ideas to Gary, Rob, and Phil and they write the letter; Can be anything county-wide. They do read our

		<p>letters and it does impact funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● So far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Crossing Guard Funding ○ Crosswalk painting ○ Police facility maintenance and potential new stations ○ Disability access funding for businesses to increase access ● They do have budget forums, and it is the squeaky wheel that gets the grease--we have to repeat ourselves and say this is what midcounty needs. ● Budget letter is sort of a visionary letter ● Luisa shared about the deficit being met by cutting a significant amount of health programs--HHS. Homelessness, kids' nutrition programs particularly hard hit. When you're asking for funding for one program, what are we willing to sacrifice since the tax increases didn't all go through.
8:56	Mid-County Director Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● County Executive is working on an handout that shows all the programs and departments with cuts so everyone is aware ● The tax increase should have happened much sooner. Council doesn't seem to be considering increasing taxes. Pushing for more transparency in the budget to see where the money is going--council and County Executive have very little control over that process. ● The Wheaton business community is sharing complaints about parking garage hours being extended. It's impacting their businesses, and asked to reconsider--allow an hour free, change hours back. Other perspective--if we reduce the hours or fees, we're reducing some other service. The fee isn't significant, but it's sometimes the difference between going to a paid lot or a free lot. Arquilla added that they are trying to encourage Metro use and also shared about the fees for using ParkMobile. ● Wheaton Gateway is requesting additional story to add to their site plans, some concern about impact of more people, but general support
9:06	Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee Report	Luisa provided updates so Rob had nothing more to add.
9:06	Community Concerns	None
9:08	Meeting Adjourned	Phil moved to adjourn the meeting. Phil seconded. Meeting adjourned by Chair at 8:53 p.m.