



Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 19, 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, Serge Thomas, Carol Kosary, Gary Fellman, Philip Ardanuy, Ben DuGoff, Debra Liverpool

Montgomery County Staff: Talia Beaulieu-Hains, Luisa Cardona

Guests: Nima Upadhy (MCDOT)

Elected Officials: Hannah Wilcove (Councilmember Glass's office), Hope Klein (Councilmember Glass's Office)

Attendees: Jessica Rotem, Kim Morgan, Lidia Miranda

Time	Topic	Notes
7:07	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 asked for a motion to approve the minutes for June. Serge moved to approve the minutes, Carol 2nd motion. Minutes approved by vote.</p> <p>Chair asked for a motion to approve minutes for July. Carol moved to approve the minutes, Serge 2nd. July minutes are approved by vote.</p>
7:11	Presentations	<p>Nima Upadhy: MCDOT Pedestrian Safety manager, also in charge of Safe Walks to school and crash reviews that involve students and schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nima shared that as part of the evaluation of the Woodson and Astoria Road intersection, they will be adding an all-way stop. There is a consultant working on detailed evaluation of EHS walkshed, which includes Walkview and Newport Mill Middle school, so we're looking at the neighborhood in a very detailed way. We hope to get that report done by end of October and an open house in January. <p>Meghan asked if there would be an opportunity for community input.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nima: When we started the study last year we went to an open house at the school and asked people to fill out a survey. In January the report will not be finalized so we are open to suggestions at that time. <p>Debra: asked about a crosswalk at Georgia and Layhill road that isn't working. There's even a ramp to the crosswalk, but very few people use</p>

it. People are still crossing the street not in the crosswalk. Can that be reviewed?

- Nima: She can check what project it belongs to and provide more information.

Jessica: We gathered a lot of information, would you be open to hearing feedback from the neighborhood to make sure they are included in the report with the consultant.

- Nima: I'll share my email in the chat, so you can send locations and we can have the consultant look at those spots. Connecticut is a state road, so we can only do limited amount of work around Connecticut. But in our neighborhood roadways, we'll try to work on that, and that's the main goal of the walkability study.

Meghan: Does the county have any sway with the state?

- Nima: We can pass along to SHA and keep on following up on what they can do, but the answer is no, we just have to send it to them and make sure they do the review and give us the results.

Meghan: There was a suggestion that the state block access to the cut through from Connecticut to Woodson Ave. The county pedestrian master plan proposes that it be formalized. Does the county have an opinion on providing some kind of signalized pedestrian crossing on Connecticut?

- Nima: I was looking at it with the team, it's a stormwater management facility. We can definitely pass it along as part of the master plan and see what their preference would be. But the crosswalk is so close to where the crossing guards are. It would need to be some kind of signalized crossing. We can pass along the request to either maintain the fence or formalize the path.

Gary: The state invested time and energy to keep people from crossing in Wheaton. Without enforcement none of this will work. Speeding is constant, people go through lights and crosswalks. Enforcement is expensive, but not sure what we're doing is as effective as it otherwise could be. What plans to work with county police and officials are there to have enforcement efforts?

- Nima: We notify law enforcement of the issue and they help us out. We really just inform them of issues at places. Within our own team we have a pedestrian safety outreach coordinator. He goes out on location. If the community thinks it's necessary, they can do outreach and teach kids how to cross safely.

Gary: It's not the kids, it's the adult. As we do planning, we should bring someone in from the police department. We need something to send a message, even if it's for a short period of time. Maybe the drones could be used.

- Nima: Thank you, that's a very good suggestion. I will invite them during our open house.

Phil: To solve a problem, to improve the level of safety for the pedestrians, it's not enough to create a way to get across the road safely, there needs to be certain enforcement mechanism so behaviors are changed and without that it's an incomplete solution and in some

		<p>ways a waste of money.</p> <p>Arquilla: Will you be in contact with the community to give updates on what's happening?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nima: We will do an open house and share our recommendations for short term, mid-term, and long term improvements. This could be remarking crosswalks and ramps. If the neighborhood approves, we'll go ahead and do that. For mid-term and long-term improvements, we'll have meetings with the community and do a lot of flyers. I think there will be enough meetings that we won't need monthly meetings. <p>Jessica: I think we have a lot of energy around the Connecticut Avenue, which I know is state, but if there's a way we can channel the community energy, it would be helpful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nima: I can pass that information on to my counterpart in SHA and my supervisor. We will also share with SHA our report. <p>Hannah: Councilmember Glass's office follows Safe Routes to School pretty closely and is in touch with Montgomery County Schools, so if people want to talk more about Safe Routes to School and Vision Zero, please reach out to our office. It's genuinely helpful for us to hear specific neighborhood concerns. Councilmember Glass is scheduled to attend the October MCCAB meeting and this is</p> <p>Luisa: Natalie Fati-Gonzalez is hosting a public safety town hall at the Wheaton Recreation Center. I highly encourage attending because you'll have everyone in one place. It's a good place to have your voice heard. In addition to getting SHA here with DOT at the same time.</p> <p>Meghan: What's the timeline for the crosswalk at Woodson?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nima: We'll design it, then we'll send the design to the community to look at. It's fairly quick, before the end of the construction season we'll get it done. <p>Meghan: Asked about the Decatur Avenue speed issues, it's a narrow street, it's a cut through street, they did get sidewalks, they asked for speed cameras, speed bumps. Everyone is feeling like something needs to be done, when everything else has been tried, what can we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nima: We can follow up to see when the decision is made and see what we can do. <p>Arquilla: We are including in the budget letter a request for more funding for the crossing guard program.</p> <p>Nima: Thank you for letting me come to the meeting and we will definitely be in touch in late November or early December to schedule a meeting.</p>
	Elected Officials	<p>Councilmember Glass's office--Hannah Wilcox</p> <p>SAFE Act--suicide prevention, gun stores across the county are implementing it--all brick and mortar gun stores have to provide</p>

		<p>information on mental health resources in the county as well as information about safe storage of firearms and resources available for people in crisis situations. Requires gun stores to be displaying and distributing that literature. People from HHS have been in shops and seen the literature and people are very interested. About 1/3 of all suicides are committed with a firearm, and they are 3x more lethal and result in death more often. Getting people help before they pick up a weapon is really important.</p> <p>Enforcement is complaint driven, if you're in a gun shop and you see they don't have the literature available, reach out to HHS. We want to make sure that in people's worst moment, they have the info.</p>
7:50		<p>Hope Klein, legislative assistant and case manager in Councilmember Glass's office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I know the opioid crisis is on the front of many people's minds ● Narcan is such an important public health resource that is free, anyone can get it, anyone can dispense it. ● I have been visiting restaurants and businesses, seeing if they are willing to have narcan on site. If you know any business or organization willing to have Narcan on hand, please let us know.
7:52	<p>Ben Stevenson, manager for prevention and harm reduction services at the Montgomery County Health and Human Services department</p>	<p>Ben Stevenson MCDHHS-- Provide training and narcan kits in their establishment to administer until first responders can arrive. There's a good samaritan law and you're protected.</p> <p>(Note: there's two Ben Stevensons in the county)</p> <p>There's been a lot of mental health and drug problems, but it really increased after COVID. Deaths more than doubled from 2018 to 2022 nationally.</p> <p>Local youth trends--alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs reduced; vaping products and prescription opioids has been more variable;</p> <p>Counterfeit drugs--xanax, adderall or percocet that look real but are laced with fentanyl; Surges around crack cocaine and molly (ecstasy) coming back. We're working on addressing those challenges.</p> <p>Most people are using multiple substances, not always at once.</p> <p>Know the Risks MC--website around opioids--overdose prevention team, expanding to cover other substances like alcohol and cocaine</p> <p>Current funding--Prevention services, 21 mini grants for different programs (education, test strips, needle exchange)</p> <p>Prevention efforts--preschool age kids and siblings to provide education and awareness, building resiliency skills;</p>

		<p>You can walk into any fire department in the county and request a narcan kit and they'll hand you one no questions asked.</p> <p>About to deploy 7 Narcan vending machines, plan to add more each year to get to a total of 10. Initially will just be indoor, eventually some will be outdoor.</p> <p>Serge: Are there any metric or impact on marketing to youth? It's hard to reach a lot of them or they are skeptical of the messages.</p> <p>Ben: They do digital marking, streaming, bus advertising, hard copy literature, bus shelter signage; Hit people from a lot of different angles, and translate that info into different languages. Awareness has to be constant</p> <p>Meghan: Is Narcan available in MCPS schools?</p> <p>Ben: Every county school has narcan, all the nurses and school administrators have been trained, security staff has been trained. Schools are strategically identifying teachers so they can place narcan in the building strategically. MCPS removed regulations so students can carry narcan in the buildings.</p> <p>Liza: do you offer trainings at small businesses?</p> <p>Ben: We definitely will. We will go anywhere. I've done them at HOA meetings. Even at the mall if they're open to us setting up a table, we'll come out there and train as many people as walk by.</p> <p>Currently training all the county bus drivers to carry Narcan. Being very strategic to think of every possible location.</p> <p>Arquilla--This should be a course in high school to get people at a younger age. Why isn't it?</p> <p>Ben: They do have as part of the health curriculum. It's very brief. Trying to create a youth-led Narcan video. How to identify the signs and administer the narcan.</p> <p>Ben: Working with middle school students to start younger, the kids really just want to educate their peers. The goal is to build a group of youth with a message, continuous constant messaging to combat the misinformation they are using.</p> <p>Montgomery College trained all their security staff and some professors contact us, Shady Grove will contact us to train their students.</p>
8:30	Mid-County Director Report - Luisa	Budget kickoff meeting they informed us that departments will be required to do a 5% cut, 3% for police, fire and HHS;

		<p>Everyone across the board, due to budget pressures, is required to cut. No staffing cuts are allowed among unionized staff. They are really asking for programmatic cuts.</p> <p>Budget pressures slides; Budget requests should consider what you are willing to cut.</p> <p>Wheaton-Glenmont PD is requesting feedback on where the station is; Push out the survey as much as possible.</p> <p>Additional budget forums coming up, including one in spanish.</p> <p>Gary: Please take a look at the budget, if you see an opportunity for us to suggest cuts, please send them to Gary and he will compile them.</p> <p>Philip: we never really know our overall impact on the budget. If there's an area where we can really move the needle on something small but important let's focus on that.</p>
8:35	Budget Letter	<p>Gary will have draft budget letter in the next few days; would like to get an updated letter out the middle of next week; Looking for letter approval by the 3rd week of October.</p> <p>Phillip: Last letter had high level objectives, let's pick something small to make a bigger impact.</p>
8:40	Board Business	<p>The October 3 and 17th meetings are on the Jewish high holidays; Chai called for a motion. Gary moved to move the executive board meeting to the 10th, Phil 2nd. Rescheduled executive board meeting approved by vote. The Executive Board meeting will move to October 10.</p> <p>Arquilla asked if anyone had interest in running for chair.</p> <p>Rob may have expressed interest in chair? Does anyone want to be vice chair? Meghan is new to secretary so she can continue.</p> <p>Two new members will be joining the board shortly. Not sure where they are in the process so won't mention their name. Hearing on the 24th to confirm them before they are officially on the board.</p>
8:49	Community Concerns	None
9:08		<p>Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rick moved to adjourn the meeting. Serge 2nd. Meeting adjourned by Chair at 9:08 p.m.</p>