



Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 20, 2024

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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

Meeting ID: 898 2774 3604, +13017158592

Members: *Meghan Pazmino, Lee Rubenstein, Carol Kosary, Rick Gross, Rob Fox, Debra Liverpool, Serge Thomas, Arquilla Ridgell, Gary Fellman, Liza, Carol Kosary*

Montgomery County staff: *Luisa Cardona, Director Mid-County Regional Office, Talia Community Projects Manager Mid-County Regional Office*

Guests: *Frantz Pinthiere, Assistant Chief, Executive Officer, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service., Sam Belloni, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, Battalion Chief, : Irvine Smith, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, Community Action Coordinator*

Elected Officials: *Councilmember Gabe Alborno, Hannah Wilcove (Representative Councilmember Glass)*

Attendees: *Christi Brick, Wheaton Gateway Program*

Time	Topic	Notes
7:07 p.m.	<p>Call to Order & Welcome</p> <p>Meeting Protocols</p> <p>Introduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair called meeting to order. • Chair reviewed meeting protocols and recognized guest speakers. • Welcome new members
7:10 p.m.	<p>Agenda Minutes</p>	<p>Chair called for motion to Approve Agenda. Serge made motion to accept Agenda, Phil 2nd motion to accept and Agenda accepted.</p>
7:15 p.m.	<p>Elected Officials Hannah Wilcove (Representative Council member Glass)</p>	<p>Hannah discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council made vote on Reconciliation, Final vote to approve took place on May 23rd. • Council has annualized and will continue Drone as First Responder program because the program has been successful in Silver Spring and Wheaton and will be expanded to Bethesda and Up-county. • Recognition that June is Pride month. Councilmember Glass’s office will be celebrating LGBT Pride events. Held official Flag raising ceremony outside of Executive Office Building. This marks 6th year anniversary. Other events coming pride Family Day, Athletic Park this weekend, and Pride in the Paza June 30. All events are free and fun. • Olney Farmers Market this Sunday from 8am to 11am. • Purple line construction update: Project is about 60% complete. <p><i>Question: Serge expressed concern about bottleneck traffic caused by construction at University Blvd. and Piney Branch Rd.</i></p>

		Hannah will check on it.
7:25 p.m.	Frantz Pinthiere, Assistant Chief, Executive Officer, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service.	<p>Office of the Fire Chief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on CPR Blitz in Wheaton March 10. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Performed Hands on CPR Training at local public schools and at Wheaton Library. Trained 1500 residents ○ Medstar Health would like to partner with Office of Fire Chief to offer training. ○ Also in partner with AKA Sorority to offer training.
7:35 p.m.	Irvine Smith, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service	<p>Regarding Mid-County area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently added EMS Duty Officer in Silver Spring area and may also provide help in Wheaton area. • Relocated EMS Duty Officer to station 25 Belpre from Glenmont • EMS staffing added to Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire
7:40 p.m.	Sam Belloni, Battalion Fire Chief, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire on Coach Lamp Lane. After the fire Initiative implemented to meet with/canvas neighborhood to create awareness concerning working fire detectors. • Mostly calls for medical in area. Less fire calls. • Initiating more smoke detector awareness and training in community. Will hand out and install. Educating about new 10-year sealed battery smoke detectors to keep clean, but no longer can check battery. • Battalion 4 is housed in Aspen Hill and includes Wheaton, Glenmont. <p><i>Question: Luisa asked if they could expand on why CPR Blitz was conducted?</i></p> <p>Chief Belloni responded data showed Wheaton area residents, although high vulnerable area, were not receiving bystander CPR at the same rate as the rest of the county. Also to target people that may not be proficient in English. Out of entire county of 400 CPR resuscitations, bystander CPR accounted for 21% of 400. Would like to see bystander CPR increase.</p> <p><i>Question: Megan asked if there was a way for residents to request smoke detectors?</i></p> <p>Chief Belloni said yes. They are freely offered. Residents can request one or they may offer them at a fire call for service. Or call 311. They try to target residents in need.</p> <p><i>Question: Liza asked why Sandy Spring Fire House was not able to be used to store polling items (tables)?</i></p>

<p>8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Councilmember Gabe Albornoz</p>	<p>Assistant Chief Frantz Pinthiere said he was not familiar with issue and would research issue and follow-up.</p> <p>Budget Overview and Montgomery County Public Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success of MCPS impacts better economy, housing and provides stability. • Challenges to operating budget is that COVID federal funds (over \$100 million funding) expired, and some programs impacted included Virtual Academy, additional math and reading programs. • Additional challenges include the recruitment of faculty and personnel and previously negotiated compensation packages needed to be covered. • County funds was able to fund 99.2% of what was requested from Board of Education, but there was a \$30 million short fall. • No RIFs or Furloughs occurred, but there may be involuntary transfers to ensure there is adequate coverage of schools. • Virtual Learning Academy, which was discontinued, comprised of 80 teachers which will be placed to cover in other schools. There is also a shortage due to retirements or moving away from area. 12,000 teachers in system. • Leadership transitions occurred. New Superintendent. • Council has a tremendous amount of respect for MC Board of Education which oversees a majority of County Budget and school system. Would be nice to see BOE positions adequately compensated. <p>Regarding Investments in CIP Budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction and renovation cost of schools and Facility infrastructure. • Regarding concerns over transparency and accountability in MCPS. Significantly expanded the role of the MC Office of the Inspector General who is now charged with overseeing MCPS. Budget was increased to support the increase in duties for the position. • Under leadership of Councilmember Will Jawando very active year-round ensuring there are committee sessions around Education. <p><i>Question: Serge asked If funding for Virtual Learning program will be restored?</i></p> <p>Gabe responded Virtual Learning program was established during COVID and 600+ students were enrolled. The program was a lifeline for families and helped with many challenges families faced. Program will be phased out 1 year earlier, but unfortunately there is no short-term solution in place. Hopefully, we can glean best practices and see what the best options are. There were many programs cut such as college related programs and training for teachers. His hope is that new Superintendent and leadership will have to make determination about future programs.</p>
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<p>8:25 p.m.</p>	<p>Arquilla Ridgell, Chair Board Business</p>	<p><i>Question: Meghan asked about improving safety in neighborhoods for children by providing crossing guards and how are crossing guards funded?</i> Gabe responded that crossing guards are staff members of the Montgomery County Police Department and are trained by police. Crossing guards do a wonderful job and become familiar with neighborhood children and help with the increasingly busy intersections. Recently there has been a strong effort to dispatch crossing guards to areas where there are higher incidences of traffic challenges. Meghan’s neighborhood may qualify for that given the current incident. He will follow-up.</p> <p><i>Question: Gary asked about the level of graffiti, truism and other negative issues in schools during last nine months increased. Are funds or new programs being cut?</i> Gabe responded he noted the level of hate-based graffiti increased. Proclamation established to acknowledge that graffiti is an international growing concern. He will follow-up on issue.</p> <p><i>Question: Lee asked as parent of MCPS and special needs child, he is impressed and appreciative of dedication of staff and teachers, para educators and specialists. Budget cuts will affect changes to programs and make a huge difference to services.</i> Gabe responded as a parent of a special needs child he understands and believes MCPS provides great services. Good news is that the budget for Special Education did increase because there has been a significant growth in the special needs population in MCPS system and the increase in expenses for each student.</p> <p><i>Question: Liza asked about his opinion on upcoming ballot initiative to establish two term limits for County Executive.</i> Gabe responded only need 10,000 signatures to get measure on ballot in Maryland. So far, organization has about 36,000 signatures on initiative so he expects that the measure will be on next vote. Council suggested a second ballot measure be introduced for three consecutive term limits. Legal question as to whether the two ballot measures would cancel each other out. Personally, he does not support two or three term limits because he believes voters should determine their leaders or public officials. Recommendations should be coming soon.</p> <p>The Board Retreat held in new county office building on Reddie Drive and to learn more about ourselves and other Board members. Board developed ideas and goals for Board. One goal was disability and access working with businesses , walkability, transportation, pedestrian safety.</p> <p><i>Question: Gary asked if we could incorporate ideas from retreat into Budget letter.</i></p>
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	<p>Serge Thomas, Liaison for WMATA</p>	<p>Arquilla responded yes and we would work on getting post it notes from meeting.</p> <p>Luisa responded the retreat was more of a session for learning more about why everyone wanted to serve and getting to know other Board members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nandos Peri Peri in Wheaton dinner was great food for the retreat • Board still in process of selecting 15th member. • Position of Secretary. Meghan has shown interest and may consider running for position. <p><i>Liza pointed out that a program called Olly takes notes for you and records words.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meghan was nominated and accepted the position of Secretary, and we will vote at next meeting. <p>Motion made to move date for July 4 to July 11. Board voted (8 in favor, 1 against) to change meeting date to July 11. Luisa will send an updated public and Board calendar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gary, Phil, Rob and Rick will work on preparing Budget letter <p>Serge updated Board on WMATA and new dedicated bus lanes. Possible extension of lanes. Also, WMATA is performing renovations at various stations in addition to providing transportations service. Ensure that County residents are satisfied with current Coach bus service.</p> <p><i>Question: Meghan asked if dedicated bus lanes will be permanent.</i></p> <p>Luisa responded that No since there was no public engagement process before lanes were installed. Also, there is currently no funding for maintenance of lanes.</p>
<p>8:40 p.m.</p>	<p>Luisa Cardona, Director of Mid- County Regional Services Center Mid-County Director’s Report</p>	<p>County Executive Budget Forum will be held Monday, September 16, 2024 at the Wheaton Recreation Center. Spanish Forum date TBD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sparkle Event (Fireworks) will be held Saturday, July 6.
<p>8:50 p.m.</p>	<p>Rob Fox (WUDAC Liaison)</p>	<p>Follow-up meeting regarding Truancy crisis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations, County Council and County Executive attended along with many social groups to help with resources for recovery. Over 100 residents attended. • Dr. Davis, Chief Health Officer presented • Identity pilot Program presented • Solicited feedback from youth participants
<p>8:59 p.m</p>	<p>Community Concerns</p>	<p>No community concerns</p>
<p>9:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>Chair adjourned meeting.</p>

