



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

### MINUTES

May 20, 2024

- 7:00 p.m. Call to Order and Welcome
- 7:01 p.m. Roll Call
- See below
- 7:01 p.m. Review/Approve minutes from 4.15 meeting
- Moved by Steve Augustino
  - Seconded by Wayne Jacas
  - Vote was unanimous
- 7:02 p.m. Police Report
- District 1: Public Safety Day at the fairgrounds with 33,000 attendees; investigation of a robbery and assault; stolen vehicle resulting in a pursuit by car; several repeat offenders; bombs threats against local synagogues.
  - District 5: Shooting in Piedmont Woods Local Park in Germantown at a Graduation Party; series of sexual assaults by an individual who has since been apprehended.
  - District 6: vehicle theft, resulting in a car chase; concerns about juvenile crime; helped an individual who may have posed a threat to himself; worked with BPD to address threats to courthouses and judges.
- 7:30 p.m. Topic: Councilmember Marilyn Balcombe will discuss legislation she has worked on, bills she is currently working on, and other issues she plans to work on.
- Budget was finished by the Council last Thursday and the Staff are writing out the resolutions for voting on this week
    - \$7 billion for operating \$8 billion for capital investments
    - Increased funding for MCPS, but still would like more
    - New programs:
      - Drone program expanded
      - Clarksburg Library is fully funded, should be built quickly
      - New Recreation Center in Poolesville with medical clinic space, back loaded project.
      - Montgomery College, Germantown will get a new Student Services Center
      - Bus route from Clarksburg to Boyds with a bus depot in Boyds
    - Project that was not funded
      - Observation drive extension because the Clarksburg Gateway Master Plan covers the Comsat facility, where the road is supposed to go. This has been kicked down the road for at least 1 year, but we will definitely have more info by then.
      - Great Seneca Transit Network (supposed to replace the CCT, which has been defunded)
  - Other Legislation
    - Jobs Initiative: \$20 million to bring new jobs to MoCo and compete with neighboring jurisdictions. \$10,000 per job over \$100,000 in salary → \$10 million in total; \$7 million innovation fund; \$3 million in a founders equity fund to support early-stage entrepreneurs who have been disadvantaged. Need to improve outreach/marketing to non-institutional partners

- F.A.I.T.H. ZTA – affordable housing on properties owned by Houses of Worship. They do have to pay property taxes and they cannot restrict residency by membership in the faith organization
- MOVE Act – get rid of office vacancies, discussed last meeting as well
- Proposed Legislation and additional information
  - Overnight stays in the Ag Reserve – currently not permitted unless through an AirBnB. A ZTA was introduced by CM Fani-Gonzalez, discussion is ongoing with CM Balcombe and CM Luedtke.
  - 3 Planning efforts are currently ongoing: Great Seneca, Clarksburg Gateway (Comsat Building), and Germantown Employment Area Study (in addition to the urban district and business improvement district study)
  - Building Energy Performance Standards – expands benchmarking for energy
- Questions
  - Observation Drive timeline – shortest timeframe is a year, we will at least have a sense of how long it could take by then
  - Timeline on White’s Ferry is unclear, but MoCo is taking some steps to pursue purchasing the MD landing to negotiate directly with the VA landowner
  - Why did the last Germantown Employment Sector Plan underestimate growth so much? No one’s job was to advocate for Germantown, the job market and commercial real estate market changed, lack of metro/public transit
  - Equity and Innovation funds in the Jobs initiative will help small businesses as well, includes consulting services
  - General show of appreciation for the Councilmember’s work
  - Want to replace the brink road bridge, which has been delayed for years.

8:20 p.m.

County Council Report

- CM Glass – Pride Month is June, events across the County
- CM Luedtke – additional Pride Month events
- CM Katz – no update

8:25 p.m.

Regional Director’s Report

- Ruben Rosario
- Career coaching with Street Outreach Network
- Bike to Work Day
- Public Safety Day
- County Exec is in receipt of our public safety letter, the problem persists, but there are positive signs that we may be turning a corner, particularly with diversity among recruits
- Goal to increase representation of women by 2030

8:27 p.m.

Community Concerns

- Clarksburg Gateway Sector Plan Meeting tomorrow

8:30 p.m.

Adjourn

- Moved by Paul Klee
- Seconded by Wayne Jacas

**Note:** Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If these or other services or aids are needed to participate in this activity, contact Greg Wims at 240-777-8040 or at [greg.wims@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:greg.wims@montgomerycountymd.gov).

**12900 Middlebrook Road, Suite 1000, Germantown, Maryland 20874**



**UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

**2023-2024 Board Members and Committees**

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Committee</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>Andrew Saundry, Chair</b>	Germantown	Executive Committee
	<b>Amanda Hunt Franklin, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair</b>	Poolesville	Executive Committee
<b>X</b>	<b>Christel Bivens, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair</b>	Germantown	Executive Committee
X	Matilda Adu	N. Potomac/Potomac	Quality of Life
X	Steven Augustino	Gaithersburg	Quality of Life
X	Wayne Jacas	Boyds/Clarksburg	Quality of Life
	Steve Wambo Kamga	Potomac	
	Hassan Dixon	Germantown	Quality of Life
	Jay Guan	Clarksburg	Quality of Life, <b>Chair</b>
	Mary Hoel	Laytonsville	Land Use
	Revonne Johnson	Germantown	Quality of Life
X	Paul Klee	Darnestown	Land Use
	Tangela Nichols	Boyds/Clarksburg	Quality of Life
X	Christopher O'Brien	Gaithersburg	Quality of Life
	Kraig Walsleben	Damascus	Land Use
X	Steve Robinson	Damascus	Land Use, <b>Chair</b>

*Effective November 2023*