



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

October 21, 2024

HYBRID MEETING

*In Person: UpCounty Regional Services Center
1290 Middlebrook Rd, Germantown, MD 20874*

Online: Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86090967789>

Meeting ID: 860 9096 7789 By phone: 301 715 8592

- 7:03 p.m. Call to Order and Welcome – Meeting called to order at 7:03pm
- 7:04 p.m. Roll Call (see below)
- 7:05 p.m. Review/Approve minutes from 9.16 meeting – Minutes as shared with one change to roll call and file name were made and accepted unanimously.
- 7:08 p.m. Police Report
- 1st District Commander Dillman
- Thanks to the UCAB for being involved in discussion of youth crime
 - S. America “death group” is burglarizing high dollar home neighborhoods. Very organized, entering 2nd story bedrooms and stealing jewelry, safes, and high end bags around 7-9pm when residents are not home.
- 5th District Commander Pallas
- Open house was successful
 - Juveniles still involved in many cases of car theft – waiting in car dealer lots after hours, but were able to get children services involved with some of the new legislation
- 6th District Commander Stancliff
- New hire in police department went above and beyond in their duty to uncover guns and criminal activity
 - Drones are now operational across six districts, extending up to three miles (limited by battery life)
- Topic: Councilmember at Large, Evan Glass will discuss legislation he has worked on, bills he is currently working on, and other issues he plans to work on.
- Riverworks Art Center event update (October)
 - Drone Program – 1st responder program – delayed for Upcounty. Command center in Derwood for UpCounty Region – will be coming on board in the new year. Used to address officer shortages and resident preferences for reduce police interactions. SS first city to use drones
 - Public Nuisance Legislation – noise monitoring due to modified vehicles – pilot program will roll out in new year. Germantown will receive a monitoring station along with two other areas down county.
 - Safe Streets Act – Discussed a bill aimed at reducing pedestrian fatalities and injuries including:
 - Prohibit right turn on red in high-risk areas
 - Increase time for pedestrians to cross the street

- Safety reviews walking to and from school
- Reliance on automated cameras
- Noted that 400 pedestrians were struck with 19 fatalities.
- Climate Action - Environmental Resiliency
 - MoCo carbon emission reduced 100% by 2035
 - 42% from transportation
 - 50% infrastructure in buildings
 - Focus on energy performance standards (BEPS) for buildings over 25Ksqf to encourage green initiatives, especially in hospitals and healthcare networks.
 - Acknowledged that some entities require fossil fuels.
 - Need to address how we compel hospitals and healthcare networks to implement climate-friendly initiatives without raising their fees for building infrastructure change costs. (we are the 3rd largest biotech sector in the country).
 - Reforestation – tree canopy – needs to look at tree replacement when trees are cut down.
- Infrastructure Improvements – Plans to simplify processes for neighborhood infrastructure requests, such as speed bumps and stop signs, to promote community safety without requiring a supermajority for approval.
- Housing Strategy: Initiated a discussion on attainable housing for middle-income residents, referencing a Washington Post article. No formal proposals are currently before the council.
- Transportation Concerns: Highlighted ongoing challenges with the American Legion Bridge and the lack of funding for the last six years. Funds diverted to rebuilding of FS Key Bridge in Baltimore.
- Drones: In response to questions about the impact of intermittent Wi-Fi and cellular coverage throughout the County, EG noted that drones are fully self-sufficient and do not rely on Wi-Fi.
- M83 Road Project: Project delayed for decades, with no recent funding. Not likely to materialize.

County Council Report

- Aaron Kraut (Luedtke's office)
 - update on the Damascus Placemaking Festival held on October 19-20. Event hosted to support local businesses and build up Damascus. Attendees included small businesses, residents, and visitors. Initiative designed to help create a clear vision for Damascus
 - Obtainable housing briefing occurring next week
- Craig Wilson (Balcolm's office)
 - Public meeting on Wednesday re: m-83 at 6pm at Neelseville MS

Regional Director's Report – Ruben Rosario

- Reported shooting in Montg Vllg and a town hall ensued to address community concerns about police presence. Community questioned limited police presence. In attendance were mental health professionals, community advocates, leaders and concerned parents. Announced plans for a public safety meeting.
- Oktoberfest in Germantown was a success (black Rock delivered a presentation)
- Upcoming events include the parade at Poolseville (Oct 21) and upcoming health gala which will feature an online auction.

Community Concerns – none were raised

Approve BCC Questionnaire – the Questionnaire was reviewed by members and approved

Quality of Life Subcommittee Update – Steve Augustino shared insights from a panel on juvenile crime, focusing on increasing access to safe recreational activities to deter youth from criminal behavior.

8:36 p.m.

Adjourn.. 1st Motion by Wayne Jacas and 2nd by Paul Klee



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

2024-2025 Board Members and Committees

Name	Area	Committee
Matilda Adu (NP)	Rockville	Quality of Life
Andrew Saundry (P)	Germantown	Land Use
Steve Augustino (P)	Gaithersburg	Quality of Life
Paul Klee (P)	Darnestown	Land Use
Christel Bivens (P)	Germantown	Land Use
Jay Guan (NP)	Clarksburg	Quality of Life
Wayne Jacas (P)	Boyds	Land Use
Steve Robinson (P)	Damascus	Land Use
Kraig Walsleben (P)	Damascus	Land Use
Lynn Arndt (P)	Boyds	Quality of Life
Michelle Ashafa (P)	Clarksburg	Quality of Life
Jason George (P)	Germantown	Land Use
Melane Hoffmann (P)	Clarksburg	Land Use
Mary Keane (P)	North Potomac	Quality of Life
Paul Lauria (P)	Gaithersburg	Land Use
Dana Pauley (P)	Boyds	Quality of Life
Marc Robles (NP)	Montgomery Village	Quality of Life
Sarah Stevens (P)	Damascus	Quality of Life
Teresa Watkins (P)	Clarksburg	Land Use

Matthew Woorman (P)	Germantown	Quality of Life
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Effective July 2024