



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

### Meeting Summary September 23, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Cherian Eapen and introductions were done.

The meeting summaries from June 10, July 15 and August 19, 2013 were approved. (Aviles moved, Firley seconded).

#### Update from the County Council –

- Councilmember Craig Rice discussed his plans to further engage the community by reviving the Germantown Parade, and continuing to hold community meetings with the next ones scheduled in Damascus and North Potomac.
- Josh Faust from Councilmember Roger Berliner's office announced that Mr. Berliner had recently held a town hall meeting in Poolesville with good response.
- Mr. Rice also mentioned that: a) the full Council would be soon deliberating on the proposed Zoning ReWrite; b) the Council is also holding a town hall for students; and c) the Council would hold a public hearing on the Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan.

#### Update from the Upcounty Regional Director

Catherine Matthews shared the following information.

- Personnel are available at the Upcounty Regional Services Center's HHS offices to assist county residents in registering for healthcare coverage options as per the Affordable Care Act.
- A survey is being conducted concerning seniors' thoughts about available transportation services in the county. A community meeting is also scheduled at the Upcounty Regional Services Center on October 29.
- The County has initiated a campaign to ask drivers not to give donations to panhandlers found on roadway medians. Advocates for the homeless have joined the County in the message that there are more efficient and effective ways to help the homeless through county agencies and community partner organizations.
- Community Service Week will take place October 20-27.
- Councilmember Nancy Floreen is holding an informational forum just for homeowner and condominium associations on October 23 at the COB, beginning at 7:00pm with a reception then followed by the forum at 7:30pm.

#### Discussion – “Future Planning in Montgomery County”

Planning Director Gwen Wright shared her perspectives on planning and how Montgomery County might go forward as density increases.

#### Chair's Report

- Mr. Cherian Eapen asked the board's opinion on sending comments and recommendations for adding early voting sites in the Upcounty. Mr. Mark Firley moved to do so with Mr. Bob Thompson seconding the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- The Chair reminded board members of two tours that have been arranged: one of segments of alignments for the proposed Midcounty Highway/M83; and the other of the new Holy Cross Germantown Hospital that is under construction.

**Committee / Liaison Reports** – None.

**New Business/Announcements** - None.

**Community Concerns/Comments** – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm (Firley moved; Rosenbaum seconded).

*Board Attendance:* Andres Aviles, Juan Cardenas, Beth Daly, Brian Donohue, Cherian Eapen, Mark Firley, Scott Graham, Matt Leakan, Robert Nelson, Gail Robinson, David Rosenbaum, Robert Thompson, James Wallace.

*Additional Guests:* Councilmember Craig Rice, Dale Tibbitts (Councilmember Marc Elrich's office), Josh Faust (Councilmember Roger Berliner's office), Claudia Heiney-Gonzalez, Donna baron, Art Slesinger, Laurie-Anne Sayles, Sylvia Carignan (Gazette).

*Staff:* Catherine Matthews

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