



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary May 12, 2008

Approval of April 21, 2008 Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tobi Printz-Platnick. The meeting summary from April 21, 2008 was approved (motion by Dick Wright, seconded by George Donovan).

Update from the Office of the Executive and the Upcounty Regional Staff

Upcounty Regional Services Director Catherine Matthews reviewed several news releases and reminded board members about the annual meeting and community reception in June. Assistant Director Jewru Bandeh announced the Shred-It event (June 28) and Foreclosure Workshop (June 21) planned by the Upcounty Regional Services Center. She also briefly explained the proposed budget for fiscal year 2009 and the anticipated gap between County Executive Leggett's plan and that from the County Council. Ms. Matthews mentioned that there was a consensus of board members that staff should send meeting packets electronically.

Update from the County Council

No report.

Presentation: "The County Property Use Study"

Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Diane Schwartz-Jones presented Mr. Leggett's plan for relocating County facilities from the County Service Park on Crabbs Branch Road. Joining her were Al Roshdieh, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works and Transportation; Cynthia Brenneman, Director, Office of Real Estate; Hamid Omidvar, Chief of Construction Design, Department of Public Works and Transportation; and Nancy Hislop, Program Manager from the Upcounty Regional Services Center. Ms. Jones explained the purpose for the project which is to comprehensively re-evaluate the strategy on how we can invest in our County facilities, further key economic goals, and allow implementation of the Shady Grove Sector Plan's development at the Shady Grove Metro Station which will create additional housing in the County. She also stressed how preliminary the work is at this point and studies still needed to be conducted. In addition to several community meetings, the County is developing a website with information about the initiative. UCAB questions centered primarily around funding estimates, timelines, community reception thus far. In general, UCAB voiced their support for the process of an open dialogue and efforts to meet with community groups and decided to vote later in the meeting.

Report from the Chairperson

Chairperson Tobi Printz-Platnick revisited the County Property Use Study and asked for board comments. After a brief discussion, **the board voted to send a letter stating their support of the project and the process that reflects: a) an early commitment to engage the community at the concept phase; b) no need for zoning changes; c) an effort to make the project cost-neutral; and d) an implementation plan.**

Ms. Printz-Platnick discussed a request from Mr. Leggett for comment on a proposal he received from one of the other Citizens Advisory Boards to change their board's name. After some discussion, Board member Dick Wright moved to retain the current name of "Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board." Board member Rebecca Walker seconded the motion. There was a consensus that the board's name adequately reflected the fact that the board represented the entire community.

The Nominating Committee was asked for their report. The following slate of nominees was presented:

Chair Andres Aviles
1st Vice-Chair Robert Thompson
2nd Vice-Chair George Donovan

Board member Joel Cockrell moved to accept the slate as presented. Mr. Wright seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Printz-Platnick and Brad Davis thanked Upcounty Regional Services staff Jewru Bandeh and Nancy Hislop for assisting the Social Issues Committee in their work on the Positive Youth Development Initiative and Ms. Printz-Platnick moved to include the committee's recommendations in the board's annual report and to forward those recommendations to the Initiative's leadership. Board member Doug Noble seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Thompson led a board vote by acclamation in expressing their appreciation to Ms. Printz-Platnick for her leadership as Chair of UCAB for the 2007-2008 year and highlighted her vision, direction, diplomatic skills, and stewardship that resulted in a successful year.

Ms. Printz-Platnick reminded the board that two dedicated members were retiring after serving two full terms; Dick Wright and Patsy Hackey. On behalf of the board, Ms. Printz-Platnick expressed appreciation for their dedication and contributions to the County and specifically to the Upcounty community. Ms. Hackey remarked that, over the years, she had seen a lot of change in the region and the board and was pleased that the board is much better known by the community. Mr. Wright also thanked Ms. Printz-Platnick and former Chair Kevin Schwartz for being so well-prepared for meetings.

Committee and Liaison Reports

Land Use and Preservation Committee – No report.

Social Issues – No report.

Airpark Liaison - Board member Joanne Atay reported that the Airpark was hosting their annual picnic in September. The Airpark has been active in community service by flying out families in crisis and hosting a Maryland Task Force on Terrorism. The Airpark management is increasing security audits and asking pilots to fly at higher altitudes to reduce noise levels.

BlackRock Center for the Arts Liaison and Board member Patsy Hackey and Upcounty Regional Services Director Catherine Matthews reported that recruitment for a new Executive Director was underway and the position should be filled this summer.

Housing Opportunities Commission Liaison and Board member Bob Owolabi reported that that agency was engaged in six new and ongoing real estate projects; one being in Gaithersburg. Also HOC will open their new Customer Service Center at 101 Lakeforest Blvd in Gaithersburg in June.

Upcounty Regional Recreation Advisory Board Liaison and Board member Joel Cockrell reported that their next meeting was the following week and he would report at the next UCAB meeting.

Dickerson Facilities Implementation Group (DFIG) Liaison and Board member Heinz Bachmann reported that the group's next meeting was on June 10.

Speed Cameras – No report.

Shady Grove Implementation Advisory Committee Liaison and Board member George Donovan reported that some community concerns have been expressed that the sound barriers being constructed with the ICC project are aesthetically nice, but there is a lack of confidence in their effectiveness.

Permitting Services Advisory Committee Liaison George Donovan reported that the group was meeting the following week and he would report back at UCAB's next meeting.

Germantown Master Plan Community Advisory Committee Liaison and Board Vice-Chair Andres Aviles reported that Planning staff had unveiled a website on the plan and that the group would be meeting in June.

Community Comments

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. (motion by George Donovan, seconded by Andres Aviles).

Members present: Tobi Printz-Platnick, Andres Aviles, Bob Thompson, Joanne Atay, Heinz Bachmann, Joel Cockrell, Brad Davis, George Donovan, Patsy Hackey, Doug Noble, Robert Owolabi, Loretta Schmitzer, Kevin Schwartz, Chris Snead, Rebecca Walker, Brenda Whitehurst, and Richard Wright.

Staff present: Catherine Matthews, Jewru Bandeh