

Fallston Community Council Meeting Notes May 27, 2014

Attendees: Joyce Eaton, Andy Amasia, Dave Williams, Morita Bruce

Guests (and organization represented): Andrew Tress (aide to Council President Boniface), Councilman Joe Woods, Jessica Blake (aide to Councilman Joe Woods), Lt. Doug Reppar (Harford County Sheriffs Office), Jane Walker (County Executive Craig)

Other attendees: John H. Davids (Huntington 5,6 United), Sharon Gardner, Steven Gardner

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Dave Williams. Minutes of the March 2014 meeting were approved.

Community Council members' terms expire when the County Executive's term ends, so FCC's next meeting on September 23 will be our last. The new County Executive will decide what happens next, as Community Council members are appointed by him.

Safety Issues: Dave Williams spoke of the spate of serious crashes recently, 3 in the past month in western Harford. Most were in the evenings. A driver was also killed when a tree fell on his car.

It is against Harford's fire code to grill on the decks of multi-family homes due to the hazard of fire spreading to adjacent residences. Grills are to be kept at least 15 feet from nearby structures. Grills are allowed on the decks of single family homes since a fire would only affect that one house. July is typically the worst month for fires caused by outdoor grilling.

He also identified upcoming public outreach by FVFC.

Sheriff's Crime Report: Lieutenant Doug Reppar, representing Captain Meckley of the Northern Precinct, introduced himself and provided crime report statistics. Alarms were about the same compared to this month last year, and Suspicious Incidents were down by half (from 22 to 11). There was a 9% decrease in total calls for service (from 404 to 367). So far this year, Burglary and Assaults decreased by 67% compared to last year, Thefts increased from 3 to 6, and there have been no homicides, rapes, robberies or auto thefts in our area this year.

State and County representatives:

Jessica Blake announced that Mr. Woods is running unopposed as Councilman for District B, and that she is running for a position on the Republican Central Committee.

Joe Woods opposes Bill 14-21, which would eliminate Harford's Board of Appeals (the County Council sits as the Board of Appeals). He believes the affected public should be able to testify at a local Board of Appeals hearing if they believe a project should be stopped. He has also received lots of email against Bill 14-16 (inspections of rental properties) and plans to vote against it.

Andrew Tress said the county Auditors would like to talk to Community Councils about their audits.

Council President Boniface supports Palmer State Park and would like to see a parking lot on Forge Hill Road for better public access. Riding trails are also a possibility. He plans to raise funds for a memorial to his son, who enjoyed the Palmer park so much.

Jane Walker reported the Columbia Pipeline study will be completed the end of July. The three property owners who refused to sell their land will be served with eminent domain papers.

She noted that it will likely be spring before the incoming County Executive makes any decisions about Community Councils. Mr. Craig will be sending out letters to current appointees explaining this.

The new County Executive and County Council members will be sworn in on December 1st.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Submitted by Morita Bruce