

## DUBLIN/DARLINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

February 18, 2009

**Members Present:** Rich Norling, Chairman  
Charles Day, Vice Chairman  
Jane Howe, Secretary  
Jim Murphy  
Joni Nugent  
Stephen Smith  
Donald Thomas  
Alan Thompson  
Shirley Thompson

**Guests:** Billy Boniface  
Pat Fielder  
Jim Magill  
Brendan Patton  
Sgt. Kevin Thomas  
Jane Walker

Rich Norling called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

### **Government Updates:**

**County Executive's Representative:** Jane Walker reported that the telephone survey for clients on the MES water system in Darlington has been designed and is ready to go. John Sullivan will be the guest speaker in March, Ernie Crist or Rick Ayers in April, and mediation in May.

**Sheriff's Representative Sgt. Kevin Thomas** – See attachment for Sector 100 statistics. The Citizen Police Academy begins on March 4 and will run every Wednesday until June 11. Discussion followed about local crime including the theft of 13 horses. The report from the Sheriff's Department does not include data from the State Police and may present an incomplete picture.

**Billy Boniface** – Billy reported that Chad couldn't attend. Barry Glassman and Barbara Mikulski are looking at the stimulus funding to see what is specific to fire houses. He said hard times have crippled the budget. We all need to live within our means. They are sorting out what the stimulus package can offer projects that are "ready to roll". The Board of Public Works has approved \$50,000 for the Poplar Grove property. Parks and Rec will provide the remainder. Comprehensive Rezoning is on a fast track because timing is tight. Transportation and DNR reviews are following closely behind. He commented that the County Council will be expected to work during July and August. Regarding the numerous requests for re-zoning, he said they will not happen unless they follow the Master Plan.

**Special Guest Presentation** – Rich Norling introduced Pat Fielder and Jim Magill who spoke about the recent transit survey/petition and the proposed Ride Share program. They distributed a summary report. The Dublin/Darlington survey results were not sufficient to impact current budget plans. There is no indication that a bus route to the area is currently justified. Jim explained that every five years, a Transit Development Plan is submitted to the MTA and is the basis for continued revenue. A plan was submitted last year. Trip patterns, employer needs, and performance measures are part of the mix. There is a grant application every year with, typically, one public hearing. Under-performing routes are cut. The County does not want to start something they cannot sustain. Of the 66 people who signed the petition (submitted in November), only 19 responded to the mailed survey (sent in January). The results are not significant.

A great deal of discussion ensued. There were questions about the wording of the survey questions, timing of the delivery and "due by" date, and comments on the place of mass transit in the local economy.

Pat Fielder spoke about ongoing plans for the "Ride Share" program. She said the Wilson Center has taken a leadership role for Harford County in exploring this option. Basically, the program enlists volunteers to provide a ride for friends and neighbors who are 60 years old+. It is strictly volunteer. The volunteer's insurance is the primary policy. The program will provide secondary insurance. They are using a Howard County program as a model and grant money is being sought.

Harford County does offer services to people without personal transportation, but most eligible people are not aware of them. It was suggested that an article be placed in the Wilson Center newsletter and sent to local ministers at least once a year. Municipalities using the Harford County bus system should pay into it. Finally, there was a question as to what formula the MTA uses to declare a bus route a success? Stephen Smith and Jim Murphy thanked the County for following through on the petition, survey and subsequent report.

### **Updates**

1. **Aberdeen Water Permit** – Nothing new.
2. **LNG Pipeline** – Baltimore County has filed an appeal.
3. **NYP** – No new cases.

### **Old Business**

1. **Inactive and New Members** – Jane Walker will send a follow up letter to members who have been missing meetings. Jane Howe said she had only heard back from one member.
2. **Comprehensive Rezoning** – See Billy's comments above.
3. **Future Guests** – See Jane Walker's report above.
4. **Harley Davidson** – Jane Walker will check to see if this dealership is permitted to sell cars.
5. **Political Signage** – There have been complaints in Darlington about the Andy Harris signs that are still located on buildings and yards.
6. **Truck traffic** – Trucks may be causing damage on Shuresville Road. Local residents need to document this complaint with digital photos and tag numbers.

### **Good of the Council**

~ Jane Howe announced that both the Herb Festival and Darlington Apple Festival are in jeopardy. Several people stepped forward to help resolve the situations.

~Summertime in the Park, the local summer camp of the Dublin/Darlington Rec Council, is also concerned about rumored new fees for using public schools as is the Dublin Country Fair. Billy Boniface will check it out.

**Next Meeting:** March 18, 2009 at 7PM at the Wilson Community Center

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Howe