

JOPPA/JOPPATOWNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Number 96(06-09)

June 1, 2009

The Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the Joppatowne High School beginning at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meeting Number 96 was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Chairperson Chris Rohe, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present were Chris Rohe, Gloria Moon, Paula Mullis, Rovall M. Washington, and Doris Carey. Chris Rohe recognized and welcomed members of the community, including Jane Walker and Jansen Robinson. Council members introduced themselves. Gloria Moon moved to approve the May minutes; the motion was seconded by Paula Mullis.

Sheriff's Office / Community Policing Report

Deputy First Class Brad Crossley of the Harford County Sheriff's Office Community Policing Unit reported the following:

Total calls for service -

April 2009, 12,223

April 2008, 12,440

Sector 10 calls – total so far in 2009 are 3,119 while in 2008 there were 3,086, a difference of 33 calls.

Deputy Crossley shared highlights for the month of May. There was an armed robbery and a residential burglary. He suggested that the community keep windows locked and to continue to watch out for neighbors. Suspicious vehicles should be reported to the Sheriff's Office. He also said if you would like to know what crimes are in your area to check *crimereports.com*. A question was asked of Deputy Crossley concerning how to control scooters in the housing areas. Curfews don't necessarily work. Officers are always in and out of the Edgewood area.

Special Presentation

The budget presentation for the meeting was cancelled due to a special meeting called by the County Council. The department heads must decrease their departments by five percent. Jane Walker will try to mail the budget in brief to Chris Rohe.

Council member and Vice Chair Gloria Moon led the council members through the approval and recommendations of Comprehensive Rezoning. The council discussed property location, acreage, current zoning, requested zoning, and current requests and made recommendations. A motion to approve the recommendations was made by Paula Mullis and seconded by Rovall Washington. (see attached)

Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie

Councilman Guthrie stated that a County budget has finally passed. He voted against the budget. He said other County council members folded under the pressure from the 200 to 250 citizens who protested against property taxes and spending. Councilman Guthrie felt that the council should look into the consequences of its actions before making across-the-board cuts. He stated that council members can't tell what a yes vote did. No one knows who will lose jobs and if libraries will be shut down. He also stated that in the future, if the council has intentions of cutting the taxes, it needs to do its homework first before going hog-wild. No one knows the effect the cuts will have.

Councilman Guthrie discussed again briefly the current school adequacy standard of 105 percent. The vote to cut to 105 percent is now back to 110 percent. Council members were untruthful concerning the

way they said they were going to vote and the way they actually voted. His feeling is that the schools to be raised are not in other council members' districts so they literally do not care about this district.

Edgewood / Joppa Independence Day Celebration – Update from Marlon Gittens, Chairperson, Edgewood /Joppa Independence Day Celebration Committee.

Mr. Gittens shared that the carnival held in May was a good fundraiser. It was enjoyed by all attendees. He said the carnival helped raise funds for the bands and other things for the parade. The parade will be in Edgewood. It will start at the Boys and Girls Club and end at Edgewood High and Middle Schools. He would like the word to be spread to everyone about the event. The cost to march in the parade is \$50.00; for non-profits, \$15.00; and there is no charge for law enforcement and fire and emergency units. The parade will take place on July 5, 2009 at 6:00 P.M. There will be five marching bands. The committee is still looking for participants. If an application is needed, e-mail the committee at ejj4julyparade@yahoo.com. There will be a fun time for everyone. It is great to have the two committees coming together. Chairperson, Chris Rohe thanked Marlon Gittens for his report.

Community Updates from Community Council Members and Community Issues.

Council member and others discussed what challenges lie ahead because of further budget cuts. Many concerns were raised by library representatives. Now that schools are out, there is a fear that libraries will not be open when students need to use them. It was expressed that if the libraries are closed, more students may be prone to getting into trouble and cause more problems for law enforcement. Jansen Robinson stated that the communities need to look at doing business a different way. Change must come from us. The voters must encourage the politicians to do a better job for the constituents. We must look down the road and perhaps make changes in the coming elections. A community member stated that the climate of the county is to enable developers to make the greatest profit. Developers have a lock on the county. The chairperson thanked everyone for their participation.

Gloria Moon motioned and Rovall Washington seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Minutes by Doris G. Carey