

Fallston Community Council Meeting Notes April 28, 2009

Attendees: Don McCreesh, Dave Williams, Jim Riley, Lawrence F. Kreis Jr., Morita Bruce, Andy Amasia, Dina Miller, Andy Pisano

Guests (and organization represented): Donald Hopps (HCSO), Joe Woods (FVFC), Jane Walker (County Executive), Jean Wilson (Delegate McDonough), Stephanie Palmer Ziegler (HC Mediation Program)

Chairman's comments/ Administrative Notes:

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Don McCreesh. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Sheriff's Office - Crime Report

Cpl Donald Hopps provided crime statistics for the Fallston-area sections. Statistics on calls for service to the Harford County Sheriff's Office are available at www.harfordsheriff.org (look for "Crime Reports"). Overall calls for service were down slightly compared to February of last year but burglaries of cars, residences and businesses, and auto thefts were up slightly. A total of eleven assaults were reported in the Fallston area in March.

Community Relations Representative

Jane Walker discussed the "Growing Home Campaign" which encourages homeowners to plant recommended trees and provides \$10 coupons that can be used to buy them from local businesses. Handouts were provided, and more information is available from www.growinghome.info. She also noted that our Activity Center will be completed next year, and the County is negotiating with the owner of the property across the street to buy enough land to provide the Brandywine Community an access to Route 152 at the Oakmont light.

State & County Government

Jean Wilson provided copies of Delegate McDonough's March 31st newsletter. Don McCreesh will provide Ms. Wilson the FCC members' email addresses so future emails can be sent electronically instead of paper handouts.

Copies of state Senate House bills (draft and final) as well as voting records and contact information for Delegates can be accessed at www.mlis.state.gov.

The final bill for a Harford County partially elected school board has passed and is awaiting action by Governor O'Malley. A motion was made and carried by a vote of 7 yeas, 1 no, and 1 abstention for FCC to send a letter to the governor in support of the bill. A second motion was made and unanimously passed to delay the vote to give members a chance to review the issues, with voting on the letter itself to be conducted by email by May 12. The Chair will sign and send the letter if a majority of members respond in the affirmative.

Guest Speaker(s)

Stephanie Palmer-Ziegler spoke about the Harford County Community Mediation Program. Mediation is an informal process conducted in a neutral setting with two skilled mediators, to help resolve conflicts between members of the public. The goal is to assist the parties in reaching a formal agreement that solves the problem(s).

FCC members were urged pass on this information to other organizations and people, and to volunteer to be trained to be mediators themselves. Point of contact is Susan Fisher, Community Mediation Coordinator for the Department of Community Services. She can be reached at 410-879-2000 ext 4807, or sefisher@harfordcountymd.gov.

New Business & Community Updates

The Republican Central Committee has submitted three names to the County Council from which to select a replacement for Councilwoman Chenowith. The Council will interview these candidates prior to making a selection. Joe Woods, Chief of FVFC, is one of the three.

FCC members were urged to share information from FCC meetings with Homeowners Associations and other groups in the Fallston area, particularly on matters such as Harford's new Emergency Awareness network (auto-notification system).

The County is trying to decide how to integrate paid and volunteer Fire and EMS personnel. Dave Williams reported that he is reviewing the study on this area that was prepared by the consultant hired by County Executive Craig. The Fire Service did well in Annapolis, with Senators Pipkin and Glassman helping to defeat bills HB 1146/SB764 which would have adversely affected the volunteer fire companies in Harford.

Dave Williams also announced that the first of three phases to replace the Route 1 bridge over Little Gunpowder Falls begins in June and will be completed in February. Since the bridge will be reduced to one lane in each direction (and on the same bridge), the affected fire departments are coordinating their emergency response procedures and drivers are urged to use alternative routes when possible. Parking lots in that area are already closed.

There was more discussion on the Goals and operation of the Fallston Community Council. Due to budget cuts, Jane Walker's attendance at our meetings will cease although she will send us information on the LNG project and local highway projects. She will also add FCC to the list of community meetings announced by HCN TV and will insure that all FCC meetings are listed on the County's website. She also mentioned that Mr. Craig has established a monthly email newsletter available to all members of the public.

It was decided that members of FCC will report on topics of interest. These members will contact the appropriate County departments for monthly updates:

- Andy Pisano - Public Works
- Morita Bruce - Planning & Zoning
- Andy Amasia - Parks and Rec
- Dina Miller - County Services
- Jim Riley - Inspections, Licenses and Permits
- Sheriff's Office - Don McCreesh

Future Meetings: June 23, September 22, and November 24, 2009 at 6:30 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by Morita Bruce and Don McCreesh