

Fallston Community Council Meeting Notes June 23, 2009

Attendees: Don McCreesh, Dave Williams, Jim Riley, Lawrence F. Kreis Jr., Morita Bruce, Andy Amasia, Dina Miller, Andy Pisano, Joyce Eaton, George Twigg, Tony Dec, Diane Siemek

Guests (and organization represented): Donald Hopps (HCSO), Joe Woods (County Council, District B), Jane Walker (County Executive), Jean Wilson (Delegate McDonough), Susan Carroll (BG&E), Stewart Greenebaum and Mark Bennett (Greenebaum & Rose Associates), Jim Franczkowski, Brad Lear, Courtney Caine, Barbara Caine, Kathryn Murphy, Jean Sack

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Don McCreesh.

Sheriff's Office - Crime Report

Cpl Donald Hopps provided April and May 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").

Cpl Hopps asked everyone to keep an eye out for mischief, suspicious behavior and people who don't belong in the area. Call the Sheriff's Office to report anything that appears abnormal. Neighborhood Watches reported several people cruising through areas looking for patterns of when people are and aren't home, as well as unlocked cars/homes. Thieves can be in and out of a home in less than 5 minutes, stealing small high-value targets.

Because of budget cuts to the Sheriff's Office, it was suggested that in the future, Cpl Hopps not attend FCC meetings but instead email a report to Don McCreesh for presentation. FCC members voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

Guest Speaker - BG&E Conservation Presentation

Susan Carroll discussed BG&E's program "Building Assessment for Smart Energy Savings." Analysts walk around inside and outside a home identifying what homeowners or contractors could do to decrease energy use and what new equipment might be considered to replace wasteful equipment. The \$40 fee is waived if the homeowner accepts three of the five "immediate fixes" that the analyst recommends and can install on the spot. Call 1-877-685-7377 or go to www.bge.com (Energy) to schedule an appointment.

Dave Williams pointed out a problem with the "Peak Rewards" program is that they will not remove old mercury thermostats, which contain that hazardous material.

Home Depot has a "take back" program for old compact fluorescent lights, which also contain mercury.

Community Relations Representative

Jane Walker noted that public testimony would be taken at the June 25th public hearing on closing of the Fallston Library due to budget cuts. The hearing will be held at 6:00 at Fallston High School. FCC members discussed possible alternatives and proposals for preventing the library from closing.

State & County Government

Jean Wilson provided information from Delegate McDonough and confirmed that she would now send the info to FCC members' email addresses instead of using paper handouts.

Don McCreesh noted that FCC's letter supporting an elected school board in Harford had been approved by members' email voting and was sent to Gov. O'Malley.

Guest Speakers - Request for Rezoning Support

Stewart Greenebaum and Mark Bennett of Greenebaum & Rose did a presentation on their Comprehensive Zoning request for their three properties behind the new WalMart property on Route 1. They are requesting R4 (most intense residential) zoning; current zoning is a mix of

B2, B3 and AG (Business and Agricultural). Planning & Zoning Department approved their plan for 221 townhouses as Housing for the Elderly under the current zoning. Due to the lack of market for Housing for the Elderly, Mr. Greenebaum would like to change the zoning so the housing can be sold without age restrictions. They offered to enter into a legal agreement with the adjoining Woodcrest Homeowners Association (HOA) promising to limit the total number of residences to 221 in exchange for the HOA's support for R4 rezoning.

Issues raised and discussed included school overcrowding, traffic, "conditional zoning", the relative impacts of elderly housing, family housing, or business development, and concerns about enforcement of legal agreement(s).

New Business & Community Updates

Fallston Fire Chief Joe Woods was introduced as the newly appointed County Councilman from District B. He encouraged everyone to increase attendance at the FCC, and noted that he had requested Mr. Greenebaum to present his rezoning request to FCC so he could learn the community's concerns and preferences before making a decision.

Councilman Woods stated that he voted to cut Harford's budget by 5% to slow down County spending, and that 34 county employees would be laid off (library and recycling center). He encouraged listeners to view County Executive Craig's blog or press conference for details.

More discussion followed on potential alternatives to closing the library and speculation as to why Fallston's library was the one chosen.

The list of contact names and information for county department heads was distributed to the council members. Individual council members have volunteered to be liaisons to high profile departments within the county government.

Contact names & information for county department heads.

1. **Parks & Recreation – Arden McClune – acmcclune@harfordcountymd.gov – 410-638-3570** (*Andy Amasia*)
2. **Inspections, Licenses, & Permits – Rich Truitt – rtruitt@harfordcountymd.gov – 410-638-3366** (*Jim Riley*)
3. **Planning & Zoning – Tommie Houck – Chief of Zoning Enforcement – tmhouck@harfordcountymd.gov – 410-638-3207** (*Morita Bruce*)
4. **DPW – Transportation & Engineering – Jeff Stratmeyer – jmstratmeyer@harfordcountymd.gov – 410-638-3545** (*Andy Pisano*)
5. **DPW – Water & Sewer – Joel Caudill – jvcaudill@harfordcountymd.gov – 410-638-3300** (*Andy Pisano*)

Minutes of the previous FCC meeting were approved before the meeting adjourned at 8:00.

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

Submitted by Morita Bruce and Don McCreesh