

## JOPPA/JOPPATOWNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Number 95(05-09)

May 4, 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 95 was called to order at 7:11 P.M. by Chairperson Chris Rohe, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present were Chris Rohe, Gloria Moon, Paula Mullis, Rovall M. Washington, Betty Byrne and Doris Carey. Chris Rohe welcomed and greeted members of the community and special guests. Council members introduced themselves. Gloria Moon moved to approve the April minutes; the motion was seconded by Paula Mullis.

### **Scheduled Special Presentation by Barbara Mason, Kids C.A.N.**

Ms. Barbara Mason, Mentor Program Coordinator of Kids C.A.N., stated that the primary mission of the program is to promote mentoring in Harford County and to identify and provide opportunities for caring adults to help young people succeed in life. She shared a study by Big Brothers and Big Sisters which shows that a child that is mentored is:

- 46% less likely to use illegal drugs
- 27% less likely to use alcohol
- 52% less likely to skip school
- 37% less likely to skip class
- more confident of performance in school work
- one third less likely to hit someone
- apt to get along better with their families

Ms. Mason further stated that it is difficult to get mentors. She stated that a prospective mentor must submit an application, undergo a background and reference check and complete a minor training session. Mentoring has a tremendous impact for a child. It helps raise a child's self esteem. Most mentoring takes place in schools and churches. A suggestion was made that mentoring could take place in senior centers as well. Ms. Mason reiterated a strong need for mentors and gave contact information for those who are interested. Contact Kids C.A.N. at 410-638-3381 or [Kidscan@harfordcountymd.gov](mailto:Kidscan@harfordcountymd.gov). Ms Mason was thanked for her presentation by chairperson Rohe.

### **County Council and Community Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie and Others.**

Councilman Guthrie reported that Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger presented a \$134,000 check for the Homeland Security Program at Joppatowne High School. The program takes 60 students each year. The first class will graduate next year. One hundred twenty students applied for the program, however, only 60 were chosen. The first program started in the United States is at Joppatowne High School. He stated that \$1.1 million have been allotted to Parks and Recreation Projects this year. More can be read in Councilman Guthrie's editorial in the Edgewood newsletter. Councilman Guthrie reported that he has introduced two bills in the County Council. He stated that legislation was introduced before the Council to extend by 2 years the current school adequacy standard of 105 percent. He has proposed Bill 09-16, to push the sunset date up to June 30, 2011. He also introduced Bill 09-17 to provide a change in adequacy standards for schools beginning June 30, 2011 – and generally relating to adequate public facilities for schools. He said if the 105 percent is not supported he will pull the other bill.

Delegate Richard K. Impallaria, representing the 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, shared information from the General Assembly. He said that this was not a good year for the General Assembly – as \$1.1 million more was spent this year than last. He said that there are new programs, most of which he opposed, which are to be paid for with stimulus money – a one-time deal. Delegate Impallaria shared information on speed monitoring cameras, utilities, green energy, the Chesapeake Bay and back door taxes. His first-hand information in some instances concerning the General Assembly and the delegation was both interesting and comedic. He was thanked by Chris Rohe.

Chairperson Rohe introduced Marlin Gittins who gave updates from the Independence Committee.

- The carnival at C-Mart sponsored by the Edgewood and Joppatowne Council will start on Monday May 20<sup>th</sup> and end Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Edgewood & Joppatowne Independence Day parade will be held on July 5, 2009, starting at 6 P.M. in Edgewood. An exact starting location has not been determined.

Volunteers are needed to help with the carnival. Help is needed from communities. It is hoped that Joppa/Joppatowne and Edgewood communities will come together and have an enjoyable time. Since Joppa/Joppatowne and Edgewood communities are not municipalities, they must make money to pay for bands, etc. All funds made will go into the parade. The cost to participate in the parade is \$15. Last year the County gave \$8,000 for expenses. There will be no money from the County this year. Marlin Gittins was thanked by the Chair.

Vice-Chairperson, Gloria Moon did an outstanding job of sharing the Comprehensive Zoning Review for District “A”. She said that Joppa/Joppatowne did a master plan and the plan needs to be followed. The master plan’s intent must be kept. She shared information on property owners, location, current zoning, requested zoning, and other pertinent information on the comprehensive review. Gloria will continue with the review during future meetings.

Chris Rohe shared a packet of information from the Maryland Department of Transportation, bicycle safety, Megan’s Law and Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation. He also introduced the newest council member, Rovall M. Washington. Doris Carey shared information about HCC graduation. HCC president and Towson University president have signed a MOU for the Towson satellite campus to be built on HCC’s land. Harford Countians in the future will be able to get a graduate degree without leaving the County.

Betty Byrne motioned and Doris Carey seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

*Minutes by Doris G. Carey*