

## **Fallston Community Council Meeting Notes March 23, 2010**

Attendees: Don McCreesh, Dave Williams, Andy Amasia, George Twigg, Joyce Eaton, Dina Miller, Andy Pisano, Larry Kreis, Tony Dec, Morita Bruce

Guests (and organization represented): Joe Woods (County Council District B), Jane Walker (County Executive's office), Cpl Donald Hopps (HC Sheriffs Office), Suzanne Streeter (HC Dept. of Community Services), Al Redner, Elaine Pisano

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Don McCreesh. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. FCC meetings for the remainder of 2010 are May 25, September 28 and November 23.

### **Sheriff's Office**

Cpl Hopps provided Community Policing information (crime reports) for our area. Calls for service are down for this same period (Jan and Feb) in 2009, probably due to snow. There were 3 burglaries noted in the 700 block of Fairwinds, and one at the 7-11 in Bynum Run. He reminded everyone to keep cars and garages locked.

### **State & County Government**

Jane Walker announced that Fallston's Activity Center will open July 1st, although the hours and days it will be open are not yet known and will depend on the upcoming budget. The manager will be Mike Getz. Ms. Walker also reminded everyone to submit their census forms because each represents money to help support county services.

Councilman Joe Woods made several announcements: Dave Williams is on the Citizens Budget Review Board, which provides county elected officials with an independent review of the county's budget from the average citizen's perspective. Tulley's has closed but the new owner is an unknown, so Councilman Woods continues to press for a "padlock bill" to allow law enforcement to shutter nuisance bars. On a personal note, he noted that his personal credit card was closed out by the bank, with no prior notice, due to non-use and he recommended attendees check their own credit card contracts to look for similar vulnerabilities.

### **Guest Speaker**

Suzanne Streeter (Grants Administrator, HC Department of Community Services) discussed the Annual Action Plan for HUD. She described the federal and state funding for low and moderate income families, the Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnership programs. The "Consolidated Plan" may be viewed online and is updated every 5 years. In addition there is an "Annual Action Plan", which reports on what was accomplished and what is planned next. Citizens were encouraged to read it online or at a library and to provide comments by May 10th. Examples of projects are Senior Housing, Habitat for Humanity, and Utility/Fuel Fund Assistance. A recent project was Perryman Station which is an assisted living facility for seniors.

## **New Business & Community Updates**

Andy Pisano: A new community meeting is planned to discuss Watervale Road and the impacts of the new 2-lane bridge. Bridge completion date has slipped to 2013.

Andy Amasia: FAC building will be completed in April and site work will be finished in time for the 1 July opening. He noted that lights are still a problem on the football fields, as they point "out of the bowl" where they're supposed to be focused. Football practices need to be cut back to keep them within the designated area and to be stopped (lights out) by 10:00 pm. He is working with Mr. Getz to resolve this continuing problem.

Dave Williams: Chief Williams announced that all fire stations remained open during the snow and staffed by volunteers. All responses were immediate, with help from the National Guard, Department of Public Works and extra vehicles. There were 10 - 12 building collapses but no serious injuries or loss of life. Councilman Woods worked several days straight operating a DPW snow plow but declined to be paid anything for the work.

Chief Williams noted that vfa.org has information on smoke alarms, detectors and other new technology. In response to a question, he said that open burning permits are handled by the county's environmental health staff, so if there's a smoke problem (rather than a fire danger) do not call 911; instead, report it to the Health Department (open 8:00 - 5:00, M-F).

Morita Bruce: Citizen comments during the Amur Village DAC meeting reiterated previous concerns about traffic safety and proper control of stormwater to prevent flooding of downstream residences. The DAC meeting only considered the "old" B3 properties bordering Route 1 which do not have to -- and will not -- meet Maryland's latest stormwater regulations. Citizen concerns voiced in the Community Input Meeting appeared to have been ignored.

The county's Master Plan, Land Use Element Plan and Community Area Plans are due for revision. FCC members agreed to work on the Fallston Community Area Plan so the Administration will be aware of the desires and concerns of our area's residents.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by Morita Bruce and Don McCreesh