



THE FOREST HILL COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD Minutes

May 25, 2021

Online Zoom Meeting

Members & Representatives in Attendance

Nancy Reynolds – Acting Chair, Board Member

Thom Ellenbecker – Secretary, Board Member

Elena Skittle-Watson – Board Member

Cathy Ohler – Board Member

Tom Miller – Board Member

Larry Richardson – Policy Director for Office of the County Executive Barry Glassman

Carl Brooks – Captain, Northern Precinct, Harford County Sheriff's Office

Deborah Judd – Assistant Superintendent for Harford County Public Schools

Cornell Brown – Assistant Superintendent for Harford County Public Schools

Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Acting Chairperson Nancy Reynolds at 7:00 pm.

April minutes accepted.

A crime report for Forest Hill was presented by Captain Brooks for the past month.

- Crime remains down. 2 burglaries this year, up from 1 the prior year.
- There is a change to the way / system that crimes are reported federally under the Federal UCR (unified crime reporting) program. With the new system, if multiple crimes were charged that resulted from the same event, each charge is counted separately instead of being recorded as a single event under the most egregious crime. As a result of the changes and new software that was implemented to track this data, year over year comparisons will not be possible in the coming year until more data is accrued under the new system.
- Discussed the recent traffic accident on Grafton Shop that required victims to be hospitalized and reinforces the need for changes to that intersection.
 - Aurora provided and Thom will share the list of elected officials that should be contacted to give voice to our concern.
 - The Grafton Shop intersection was the #1 safety issue raised by Harford County and presented to MDOT. Harford county officials meet with MDOT mid-summer to discuss what MDOT is prepared to do going forward. Also high on the list is the Hwy 161 traffic circle and excessive speeding in Darlington.

Guest Speakers:

- Assistant Superintendent Deborah Judd provided details on the Harford County Public Schools 2021-2022 school year budget request.

- A copy of the presentation has been uploaded to <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QJCCJBcwnfYly9EHBKiDpYdhgHmKPnM/view?usp=sharing>.
 - At the time of the presentation the proposed budget was about to be approved by the Harford County Council and was also pending approval by the Harford County Public School board in their June 10th meeting. Explained in the presentation was the driving factors behind the \$519.5M unrestricted operating budget, \$85M restricted budget / relief grants, \$23M food service budget and \$53M capital budget.
 - In total, the budget satisfied requirements for expanded summer school programs, special education needs, ongoing pre-k programs, technology (including lease payments for new student laptops), a new virtual school option for interested students (Swan Creek), transportation, teacher salaries and additional staffing in the areas of school counseling, special education, and assistant principals).
 - Capital budgets include the limited renovation of Joppatown HS, which will be ready for school opening in 2022, planning for a Homestead Wakefield Improvements.
- Assistant Superintendent Cornell Brown was also present to answer questions about the balancing enrollment process that seeks to even out the distribution of students across schools within the district where schools in the center of the county are currently over-enrolled while schools further out in the county have extra capacity.
 - The process began with examining flow analytics based upon 2019-2020 school year enrollment numbers and has held a series of public input meetings over the past several months discussing options for school boundaries, first at the elementary school level then flowing into middle schools and high schools.
 - The next / final public input meeting is scheduled for June 2nd, after which recommendations will be provided to the superintendent.
 - Final decisions on new boundaries must be voted on by the school board by February 2022 for implementation by the start of the 2022-2023 school year. The intention at this time is that families assigned to new schools would begin the 2022-2023 school year at those schools regardless of the school that they were enrolled in the prior year or where siblings had gone previously.

Other updates from officials:

Larry Richardson –

- The county budget proposed by the County Executive is being voted on by the county council at the time of this meeting.
- COVID cases are down in the county – join the fight, get the shot.
- Senior Centers are reopening.
- Grants for 501(c) non-profits are available. The application deadline is Friday, June 4th.
- See The Grove’s web site for the upcoming Zen event at The Grove and Fourth Friday events.

- County working on an identified opportunity for Ag Preservation of 1500 acers.
- Please send letters to officials in support of the traffic issues with Hwy 23/Grafton Shop and the Hwy 165 concerns to support summer talks with DOT.

Vote – Tom Miller added as board member (congratulations!)

Meeting adjourned by Acting Chairperson Nancy Reynolds at 8:20PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 7pm – virtual meeting

Respectfully Submitted, Thom Ellenbecker

The Forest Hill Community Advisory Board is a forum for the area residents to inform the Office of the County Executive on matters of interest and/or concern within the Forest Hill community. This Board will host regularly scheduled public meetings that educate attending residents on local government services, plans and initiatives, along with various state agencies and other organizations. All meetings are open to the public. Resident involvement is critical to the success of this community board!

Forest Hill Community Advisory Board Members:

Bernard Schweigman II - Chairperson

Thom Ellenbecker – Secretary

Tom Miller

Catherine Ohler

Nancy Reynolds

Elena Skittle-Watson

Daniel Sekowski

Sherri Wiczorkowski

Please see our web page at: <https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/2710/Forest-Hill>

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