



GREATER SEVERNA PARK COUNCIL

General Meeting Minutes

www.gspc.org

January 10, 2017



General Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

President Maureen Carr York called the Greater Severna Park Council General Meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Introduction of Guests:

- Kathleen O' Brian, Linstead: interested in serving on Airport Noise Committee
- New Delegate: Susan Foote, Severna Gardens.
- Michael Peroutka, County Councilman
- Pat Daly, Constituent Officer for County Executive
- Pat Lynch, Broadneck Council of Communities

Secretary's Report (Holly Slack)

Motion to accept the minutes deferred until next month.

Treasurer's Report (Steve Poland)

Account Balances:

\$9.38 interest

Maintenance fee

BB&T Checking = \$3,812.36

SmithBarney Money Market = \$26,249.59 (legal defense fund)

SmithBarney CDs = \$0

Dues notices going out tomorrow or next day.

President's Report (Maureen Carr York)

Membership reports. Hopefully those who did not pay last year will pay this year.

Elections and Annual Meeting (John Norville and Steve Poland)

Steve Poland reported that 49 responses out of 54 all voted yes to the slate of officers.

John Norville reported that the delegates have voted and the Nomination Committee declares results final, and the Board is installed.

President: *Maureen Carr-York

Vice-President: *Brad Myers

V. P. Public Affairs *Art Timmons

Secretary: Holly Slack

Treasurer: *Steve Poland

Director: *John Norville

Director: *Amy Leahy
Director: *Bill Lippincott
Director: Erin O'Neill
Director Emeritus: *Dan Nataf
*Incumbents
Nominating Committee Approvals:
John Norville, Chairman, Director, Delegate
Jack Mason, Member
Charlie Miller, Member

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chamber of Commerce Report (Maggie Harris)

- Legislative Breakfast next Thursday in Annapolis.
- Jan 25, Annual Installation Dinner for Officers with Steve Schuh.
- Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Chamber this year.

Planning/ Zoning/ Legislative Committee (Art Timmons)

- Marsh Landing at 412 Asbury Drive: Adding 3 lots to one lot. That is 41 days after submittal. Submit any comments quickly. The county has been reviewing this for 41 days.
- 322 Canterbury Lane, off Whites Rd. Will affect Cattail passage. Meeting on January 30.
- Robinson's Reserve: Community meeting on January 30 at 6:00 PM at the Severna Park Library. This is the 7.75 acre 19 lot R-2 development off Truck House Rd near Oak Hill Elementary School that threatens the Oak Hill Community. We will try to get plans ahead of the meeting.
- Sabrina Park, Phase 3: Project has 7 Board of Appeals Hearings down and 7 more to go, beginning Wednesday, January 25 from 3:30 to 5:30 at the Council Chambers. Two more in February, 4 in March.
- The Feb 14 Hearing will conflict with the GSPC General Meeting. This could be the last opportunity for the public to speak. Feb 21st may be next meeting. Flooding the room is the best option. If 100 people are there for the same reason, that is louder than testifying. Chartridge brought in a stormwater expert to counter their testimony. Hard to predict what meeting needs a crowd.
- Cattail Commons on hold: There may be a meeting of the Cattail Creek Caucus on Wednesday, January 11 concerning this property.
- Rumors of another 10 home subdivision being planned near Marsh Landing. Not on watch list.
- The Severn Acres 6 lots becoming 16 lots are unchanged.
- Bill 73-16 Zoning – Comprehensive Zoning – Notice to neighboring property owners. GSPC voted to support the proposed purpose of this bill that will require property owners that apply for a change in zoning during the General Development Plan (GDP) to notify neighboring residents and HOAs by mail and post signs for a minimum of 14 days prior to the public hearing on the change. The bill still had technical problems as written and is still being considered. This bill died. Art would like to follow up with Chris Trumbauer and see if he intends to get this accomplished in another way.

- They were trying to get this passed before comprehensive rezoning in 2018.
- Bill 82-16 Rural Conservation Line Bill: AN ORDINANCE concerning: Zoning – General Development Plan (GDP) for Anne Arundel County This bill has been amended to remove all of District 5 from the rural conservation area, and does not change the GDP in the GSPC area. These amendments prevent changes to our area. This bill was defeated by a 5 to 2 vote. It may be back later. This Bill could have damaged a lot of work and Council agreed with us.
- Bill 94-16 Conservation Oriented Development Bill: This is the Cluster Development Bill. It has been introduced but will not be discussed until the January 17 County Council Meeting. The bill is a compromise between the Growth Action Network, the Maryland Building Industry Association, and the Schuh Administration who worked with Planning and Zoning for 21 months to reach agreement. Did not get everything we wanted, but got a lot. 1,600 square feet to 4,000. R2 could be 2300, now 3,000.
- Bill 1-17 In-Kind Replacement. This bill would permit the replacement of an existing structure with a similar structure or a smaller one in the same location as the original structure by exempting the structure from the enforcement of the current bulk regulations. Says that if you want to tear down your home and build a new one, the same size, you are allowed to do it.
- Comprehensive Rezoning due to occur as part of the General Development Plan in 2018. The four bills above have good intentions that should be incorporated into the General Development Plan before 2018. Civic organizations may want to join in a combined effort to support legislation this year that will create better results next year. Art would like to have the Rural Conservation Line combine with rezoning plan.

Education Committee (Holly Slack)

- AY2018 Budget is out and open for comment.
- Valedictorian system being replaced by cum laude system, but for college enrollment purposes, students will still be numerical ranked by the computer system.
- High School open: There is another open house from 10-11:30 this Saturday morning. If AA Co. schools cancel activities, this is cancelled. John Norville: When going on the tour, make sure to get the map; be sure to see the auditorium, especially how roomy it is and the comfortable seats. See gym on opposite side. Classes have Smartboards. Elevator marked faculty only but can use if disabled. Steps are a little daunting. Crofton is now in design.
- Benfield is complete.
- Next year's official start times will be released in April. Plan for a 15 minute shift.
- Next year's school calendar has been drafted according to the Governor's order of starting after Labor Day and getting out by June 15. Anne Arundel County was the first to achieve this calendar.

Police / Community Relations (Cindi Mitchell)

Thefts from autos continues, in addition to new thefts from garages and sheds in December. They were going after lawn equipment, and most were unlocked. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30 with the canine unit demonstration.

Cattail Caucus (Cindi Mitchell)

All are concerned with Marsh Landing, which was mostly covered by Art. They are meeting next week to talk about further discussions of Cattail Commons. Marsh Landing represents the exact property of what we do not want.

Public Works Committee (Dan Nataf & Erin O'Neill)

- Route 2 and Ritchie Highway at Arnold Light and break for Annapolis. Talked to SHA and contractor ready to go but need 50+ degree. Can cold patch it for now but they are on task.
- Possible speaker coming in April from SHA. Email Maureen with questions so she is prepared in April.
- Ben Roberts (Chartridge): The Traffic light at Redford Drive and Jumpers Hole road at the middle school is not working correctly and people are running through the red light; he even got it on video. He called last week and asked for supervisor, but nothing has been fixed. County Executive Constituent Officer Pat Daly requested Ben to send the video and he will take care of the issue right away.

ASPIRE Report (Maureen Carr York)

They are looking for leadership award nominees from the community.

SPHS Demo Committee (George Foote & Carol Boudman)

- Two of the three trees closest to be Robinson Road will not be saved, despite community efforts and their nonexistent impact on the stadium plans. Elected officials had aided in the effort to save the trees and the one that has been growing since Spanish-American War is the only one that will remain standing.
- The devoted bus entrance lane will not be available until April 2018, so the only entrance is at the Evergreen light.
- Letters for seismic monitoring went out yesterday to 18 homes surrounding Erin Garth, and West Severna Park. Surrounded communities were also told they can have pre-inspections. If interested, notify on-site manager Eric Schuster. The three monitors will be in front of the school on Robinson Road, then down along Erin Garth.
- Site contractor OAK will start demolition of parking areas and side stones and sidewalks in segments. Asbestos removal will take place section by section.
- They are prohibiting worker parking and excess bus traffic in the communities. No staging of buses in any communities surrounding the property.
- Thank you to Pat Daly from the County Executive's office for keeping in contact with Mr. Schuster, the on-site construction manager.
- Bricks are being sold by the High School PTSO for \$50.

Airport Noise Committee (Linda Curry)

- After working for nearly two years with the FAA and MAA to find a solution, Bill No. 8-2017 has been introduced to the Howard County Council: *An ACT authorizing the Howard County Office of Law to institute any civil action or other proceedings related to the implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System at Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.* The bill was introduced by HH Co Council Chair Jon Weinstein, and Vice-chair Calvin Ball. They are also asking for a

formal Congressional inquiry. The Baltimore Sun says Weinstein plans to talk with other counties about possibly pursuing a joint action against the FAA. Linda Curry is registered to testify on Bill no 8-2017 at January 17 Howard County Council meeting. (See motion in new business).

- The Federal Aviation Administration has decided to discontinue its work on the Departure procedure from Washington Reagan National Airport known as Lazir B, and is cancelling its implementation. The decision follows a review of public input, including comments gathered at community meetings, inquiries from political leaders and the public, and discussions in citizens' advisory forums. The FAA will continue to support the efforts of the DCA "Community Noise Working Group." All the Working Group members are community activists or county employees who focus only on solving the noise issue for their communities. They are now beginning to talk about equitable solutions for the entire region around DCA. The next Community Working Group meeting for National is Feb 16. Linda Curry plans on being there and hopes to speak to participants that can help get our counties working together. (See motion in new business).
- Geca- Greater Elkrigde Community Association. Spoke with leaders Drew Roth, Howard Johnson, Jesse Chancellor. They are with the GSPC Airport Committee and allowing them to link to their FB page.
- Meeting in March with community leaders – purpose is to bring everyone together as one cohesive group to have a greater impact with legislators. (See motion in new business).
- The web page is up thanks to Marcel Gonzales. Please visit at www.gspcouncil.org/bwi-noise-committee/

Environmental Committee (Paul Spadaro & Lisa Bender)

- Received report from someone fishing in Magothy over the summer. Had scratch on leg and battled with flesh-eating bacteria that was touch and go. The very next day he felt sick, then went to AA County, then to Shock Trauma for 16 days, then 14 days for physical therapy, then pulmonary disorder. All from a scratch in July. These cases need to be reported to the public. This type of infection is more likely to occur during summer period when river gets very salty. If there are jellyfish, this type of bacteria is thriving. Should not swim with cut or scratch. At Henderson Point, someone was cutting grass with lawnmower, then swam in Magothy. That night they were taken to ER at midnight fighting hard to protect leg. County should give more public notice. Linda Curry, Severna Forest: How would you get word out? Paul: Hospitals are aware of this. They are supposed to notify the county. If the county gets aware, a public notice should go out. Workers need to know these conditions exist.
- Friday, Feb 24: State of the Magothy. Friday has easier parking. 25 monitoring stations and river has gone backwards. Very bad year and nothing good to report. County has no monitoring stations. Water quality not there, and Cattail Creek is the worst.
- Yellow Perch Run. Would like catch and release during Feb-March-April because that is their spawning season.
- Little tiny cabin on McBride Road by Whites Road. This was a small cabin that probably housed 7 generations of sharecroppers or it was a slaves' cabin. It is on the list of historic homes. Paul wanted to take pictures but never got to it. Last week the cabin was torn down. He called and was told it was falling down and they had to sign off on the

demolition permit. There should be public notice and delay when taking a historic home so there would be an opportunity to gather more evidence. They are working on a living history project. This was a very unique cabin built by ordinary working people, and he feels awful that it slipped by.

- Severn River: (Lynne Rockenbach): Tuesday Jan 17 meeting at union jacks. ½ price on burgers special. Panel about Cliffs on the Severn. (See flyer Maureen sent out).

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

GSPC Planning/Zoning/Legislative Committee Chair Art Timmons made a motion to support Bill 94-16 Conservation Oriented Development Bill.

Discussion:

Councilman Peroutka was present and gave the background of cluster zoning. The original idea of cluster zoning started as a way to preserve open space and allowed reductions in setback. This allowed for less roads and more conservation areas and recreational space for the communities. Although it works well in large areas, developers are abusing it as a tool to micro-develop in Severna Park. The feedback he has received is that some would rather wait for comprehensive rezoning, while others say it is a necessary improvement. He is here tonight for the Greater Severna Park Council's feedback and how he can best represent us, especially regarding this bill.

This is the Cluster Development Bill which is supposed to be a compromise between community representatives from the Growth Action Network, the Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), and the Schuh Administration. Those at the table representing the communities were GSPC Planning/Zoning/Legislative Committee Chair, Art Timmons; Immediate Past President of Broadneck Council of Communities, Pat Lynch; President of the Arnold Preservation Council, Elizabeth Rosborg; and Executive Director of the Growth Action Network, Ann Fligsten. Ms. Lynch expressed extreme disappointment with the lack of collaboration at the table. Developers have convinced County Executive Steve Schuh to push the bill without even a minimum acreage. After the meeting, the Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA) Representative told Ms. Lynch that he has five out of the seven county councilmen who will vote yes to the bill as it stands. It was then noted that campaign contributions are public information.

GSPC Planning/Zoning/Legislative Committee Chair Art Timmons is concerned that if this bill does not pass, developers will continue to abuse the old rules like what happened to St. Martin's Lane. With this Bill, if a developer uses cluster development, they waive the right to the endless modification process Zoning officers currently allow. Even if it only applies to 5 acres using the cluster development rule, at least it is a start.

Chartridge Delegate Ben Roberts expressed frustration with the Planning and Zoning Officers that have too much power to access too many loopholes, and can approve any modifications "as they see fit," often siding with developers at the cost of the communities. The hideous micro-developments are destroying both the land and the look of the community. Councilman Peroutka

noted that there is a tremendous amount of latitude and authority that exists in the Office of Planning and Zoning, and they are struggling with how to reign that in. There is too much subjectivity in the rules.

GSPC President Maureen Carr York said that we need our builders and some are wonderful, but some are creating disasters like what is impacting Chartridge. Great developers use a tool like cluster zoning to enhance the environment and ensure conservation, but other developers abuse it with endless modifications to the point where there are no rules and our community becomes an eyesore of tiny micro-developments that change the look of the entire community. There needs to be a minimum size of development rights, not just modification rights. She asked for a show of hands as to who would want to see a minimum development restricting builders to 20 acres? All Greater Severna Park Delegates unanimously said yes.

One argument from the County Executive's office is that a minimum would infringe on an owner's right to cash in on their property. GSPC Environmental Committee Co-Chair Paul Spadaro said that this is a form of bullying. The County Executive and the developers say a homeowner has the right to build on their own property, but what about the communities? The owners cash out and then leave the community with the messy aftermath of more traffic and pollution. We have rights too, and we have a right to preserve our quality of life.

Tom Scott of Chartridge said these small areas developers are using for cluster development are the only real environmental areas left in Severna Park. It is already in the law to preserve these. They are taking away all the conservation areas. How can they say it is enhancing the environment? If they can find a way to enhance the environment, please do, but this Cluster development bill is not enhancing the environment. If you are going to fix it, fix it.

Motion withdrawn.

GSPC Linstead Community Delegate Ron Fisher made a motion to support Bill 94-16 on the condition that it be amended minimum parcel size of 15 acres.

Seconded by Mary Voglesteen of Light Street Avenue.

Discussion: GSPC cannot support Bill 94-16 as currently configured, because of lot size and ease of modifications. These are some of the worst deficiencies in the current cluster development plan and must be addressed. Free reigning modifications by Planning and Zoning officers at even 5 acres causes major concerns. Trying to attempt this development plan on a smaller lot will not work. Five acres is not enough -- there should be no modifications under at least 15 acres.

GSPC will not support the bill as drafted, but will support if amended greater than allowed in current zoning code. There needs to be prohibition against modifications for any property under 15 acres (decreased from original 20).

Motion unanimously adopted.

GSPC Environmental Committee Co-Chair Paul Spadaro noted that even if the County Executive sides with the builders, it is ultimately up to the County Council. Contact all of the

Council members and let them know this is our community and we have the right to preserve our way of life.

<http://www.aacounty.org/departments/county-council/councilmembers/>

Phone: (Annapolis) 410.222.1401; (Glen Burnie) 410.222.6890

District 1, Peter Smith: peter.smith@aacounty.org

District 2, John Grasso: john.grasso@aacounty.org (Chairman)

District 3, Derek Fink: dfink@aacounty.org

District 4, Andrew Pruski: Andrew.pruski@aacounty.org

District 5, Michael Peroutka: Michael.peroutka@aacounty.org

District 6, Chris Trumbauer: ctrumbauer@aacounty.org

District 7, Jerry Walker: jerry.walker@aacounty.org (Vice-Chairman)

Councilman Peroutka thanked GSPC delegates for the feedback, especially for organizing into a position, and wants to talk to some colleagues and see what kind of support there is for such an amendment. He found the statement by the Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA) Representative highly offensive and insulting to the integrity of the County Councilman position.

GSPC Airport Noise Committee Chair Linda Curry made a motion to represent the GSPC in extending support to the HH Co C ad Bill No. 8-2017 as well as asking for support from them and any legislators or community groups attending when testifying before the council on January 17, 2017.

Discussion: None.

Motion unanimously adopted.

GSPC Airport Noise Committee Chair Linda Curry made a motion to represent the GSPC in extending support to National Community Working Group as well as asking for support from them and any legislators or community groups attending.

Discussion: None.

Motion unanimously adopted.

GSPC Airport Noise Committee Chair Linda Curry made a motion to represent the GSPC in planning, implementing, and leading the March meeting with leads of all the communities affected by the noise from BWI.

Discussion: None.

Motion unanimously adopted.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates

- Delegates' General Meeting: February 14, 2017 at the Severna Park Library, 7:30pm
- Board of Directors' Meeting: January 24, 2017 at the Severna Park Library, 7:30pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Holly Slack.