



GREATER SEVERNA PARK COUNCIL

General Meeting Minutes
www.gspc.org
June 13, 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 7:36 p.m.

Introductions (Maureen Carr York)
GSPC Board
Mike Howard, Woodberry
Linlee Moore, Chartwood Board of Directors
Michael, Shipley's Retreat
Scott Ayers, SPMS PTO President

Secretary's Report (Holly Slack)
Motion to accept the minutes made by Mary Voggelsteen of Light Street Avenue and seconded by GSPC Director Art Timmons. **Motion adopted.**

Treasurer's Report (Steve Poland)
Dues deposited = \$315
Checks cleared = \$50
Interest paid = \$12.53

President's Report (Maureen Carr York)
Membership report: Eight regular communities have not paid, so we will be sending another dues notice.

Guest Speaker: Dr. George Arlotto, Superintendent of Anne Arundel County Public Schools
AACPS is a growing school system of 81,400 students, increasing by an average of 7,000 students a year. This increase is not just due to people moving into the system, but also students who are homeschooled and in private schools deciding to enter AACPS instead. There are 12,000 employees and a budget of approximately \$1billion.

They are rewriting and introducing new curriculum at elementary school level, since it has been 30 years since there was a focus on elementary schools. This new curriculum started with this year's kindergarten and first grade classes, and will add on each year. It will focus on more movement, science, and social studies.

Students should be reading at our above grade level at second grade. An average of 1/4 second graders were not reading at grade level 2 years ago. Last year, in just one year, they cut that in half. At the middle school level, Language Arts is doing well but math could use improvement. Since they began refocusing efforts on teaching math at middle school level, 6th graders saw gains this year. The key is hands-on learning, and a focus on *why* the formula is useful, not just what the formula is.

It is important to get kids through ninth grade successfully so they will want to stay in school later years. AACPS has created signature programs; magnet programs in performing visual arts, stem, biomedical and allied health programs. These are all vigorous programs

along with IB and AP. Participation in the program does not require stem students to be scientists, but rather to encourage what they are interested in at the moment. They are working hard to create more internships. Ideally, all high school students would graduate with a diploma and an internship. Right now they have internships with the Baltimore docks, BWI, and NSA. There are 150 NSA internships accepted state-wide, and 98 were from Anne Arundel County last year. The idea is to give real world experience with academic experience.

Crofton will be the next high school construction project and will break ground this Fall. After that they will be working on the Old Mill complex, which is estimated to become a 10-year project. They are trying to complete the necessary elementary school projects before the Old Mill project, which will be the entire construction/improvement budget once they get started.

Q&A

1. *Many cringe at changing the curriculum - it requires retraining, which is frustrating for teachers. (Brad Myers, GSPC Vice-President)*

We try to put things in place and give them time to work. Sometimes we change horses midstream across the country. We are trying to do the work on front end so that there is not as much work later on. The reading program is about instruction instead of just the text. Much of the work is driven by assessments. PARCC assignments change how teachers are delivering instruction. The assessments need to align with what is being taught.

2. *Many students want to go into early childhood education, but are worried about the constant focus on testing. Where are we on the testing regime? (Dan Nataf, GSPC Director Emeritus)*

Personal and professional opinion is that we are over-testing kids, but we need to know where we are. It's not about the teachers or the instruction -- it is about the learning, so there have to be assessments along the way. There are daily and weekly checkpoints to determine how well they are doing, and then there are high stakes national tests. The Maryland General Assembly passed a Bill that all counties have to reduce the amount of assessments given. They will be counting the minutes of how much can be given in week, month, and year. They have put together an assessment committee of parents and teachers and get their input. Need to focus on teaching and learning, and where to change instruction if it is not working; testing shows how we compare to other counties. They cannot make a fair comparison if teachers use different curriculums, so they use the same tools. PARCC was testing at 26 states but now dropped down to 6 states. AACPS will pay for all juniors to take the ACT.

3. *Why are special education math interventions that are evidence-based so lacking? Is the county looking to invest in more intervention? (Jennifer Davis)*

There are not many well-researched math interventions, especially compared to reading. When trying to build our own, we look at what is the skill set and comfortability of the teacher to teach math. There are not as many requirements on teachers to know math as reading. The dip in math at middle school is because many middle school teachers come in with elementary certification, which means no algebra, geometry, etc. How comfortable is that teacher teaching math? We are looking into putting more math coaches in buildings to help them plan for lessons, but cannot afford to hire 30 experienced math teachers for each school.

4. *What kind of accommodations have you put in place if students are required to stay in school until age 18? (Jeff Ferguson, Glen Oban)*

We are delighted to have them here. The law used to be 16, then 17, now 18. There is a lot of pressure on students to stay and not drop out. Even though they have the ability to drop out, we want them to stay because they *want* to stay and engage them. Of course, they can graduate early. Students at AACPS have to earn 26 credits (21 in most counties, but higher in AA county) and then can graduate at the end of junior year.

5. *What is the school system doing toward pointing students to trade? (Bill Lippincott, GSPC Director)*

We may not be doing enough, but it is a very important conversation. The new state superintendent from Talbot County, Dr. Salmon, wants to focus on career piece at state level. AACPS is ahead of most colleagues around state. However, we need to build space to offer the programs. For instance, we cannot simply add more seats to welding class because there is a safety concern. We offer trady classes in masonry, carpentry, printing, plumbing, graphic design, nursing assistants and dental assisting. Go to open house and see standing room only of parents of 8th graders learning about programs. Each one of programs offers certification at the end so students can finish with a certification in welding or electricity and go get a job. Each CAT center has a business advisory program. They are hoping to increase square footage with revamped Old Mill project.

6. *How do you solicit feedback from parents? From a communication perspective, some of it is great, but overall, it is a big issue. Do you have a focus on plan for better communication? (Scott Ayers, SPMS PTO President)*

Communication with families changes from each school. Information sent home in the backpack usually gets to parents when kids are in elementary school, but not in middle or high school. CAC representatives meet with Board president and ask what Board or parents want to work on, and this year they worked on assessments and communication. There was a subcommittee talking to Bob Mosier, web developers, and media, so they could make recommendations. They are in the process of finalizing the report and sending to Board. The current website is version 1.0 and at 11am tomorrow, AACPS will be launching a brand new 2.0 website. There is a sign on with blackboard and helped migrate relevant information over, such as calendars and soft lunch. There will be a fanfare in beginning of the next school year, but tomorrow is the soft opening. Blackboard concept is good, but there is a lot of learning curve involved. There is only one person in the instructional technology division. We would love to see 30 of these, but we only have 1. They will research having a podcast/web tutorial.

7. *How is AA county handling gangs in schools like MS 13 and BGF? (Amy Leahy, GSPC Director)*

Kids are aware of gangs and have people they can talk to. The School Resource Officer (SRO) unit regularly meets with kids to create safety and security. It is illegal to ask about the immigration status of students.

8. *When passing the SPHS parking lot around 10:30, it seems awfully empty. Why is that? (Steve Poland, GSPC Treasurer)*

Students leave for internships and community college for classes (or nap for lax practice) around 10:30. We have long standing history of partial schedule for seniors, since they usually only need 1 credit to graduate. They used to be required to take 4 classes in senior year, but the state reduced it to 1. Would prefer that they want to be here and take a full or close to full load, but cannot make them stay.

9. *The Wall Street Journal recently reported a story about Severna Park High School's earliest start time. Will anything be happening about this? (Linlee Moore, Chartwood)*

When the Board talks about start times, they also need to talk about dismissal times. This year, the Board approved a 13 minute shift for the high school so that it will now start at 7:30. Other schools will have 15 minute shifts. This also means schools will be getting out later next year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chamber of Commerce Report (Dylan Roche)

They are accepting Fourth of July parade registrations until June 28.

Proposed Development Cattail Commons (Cattail Caucus, Maureen, others)

The Cattail Caucus has been led by Adrienne Croll and Karen and Brad Royer from Berrywood. Robinson Retreat has also been involved. Maureen showed map of Ritchie hwy and bike path and explained they have been working with Koch while pursuing legal options with Magothy River Association. A portion of land will be donated to open space if we support overall rezoning to C3. The part of the settlement involving Wishing Rock has been taken over by the Pasadena Council. Now, the biggest concern is how they will develop the C3 property, so we need to be vigilant as to how they will manage the stormwater.

Signing this signals GSPC will support this bit of rezoning, in exchange for the open space. We need to fight battles one at a time, and there is no better way to save this much land. See Old Business.

Jumpers Hole Road (Maureen Carr York)

The county is entertaining 4 [options](#) including a hiker/biker path. Ideally, we are looking for something that provides safe walking on one side, a form of widening on each side, with bike lanes and shoulders.

No matter what the option, the criteria should be, at minimum, a sidewalk on the east side, and bike lanes and/or wide shoulders on both sides. See Old Business.

Planning/Zoning/Legislation (Art Timmons)

- County Executive Steve Schuh to Include Funding to Kick Off General Development Plan in Supplemental Budget: *Proposal Will Include \$50,000 to Support a "Roadmap for the Future.* " Anne Arundel County Executive Steve Schuh announced on June 9, 2017 that his proposed 2017 supplemental budget plan will include funding to accelerate the General Development Plan in response to community concerns across the County.
- Current subdivisions to watch:
 - Sabrina Park, Phase 3: There are 5 Board of Appeals Hearings scheduled.
 - 17th Tuesday, June 20, 2017 6:30 to 8:30 PM Council Chambers, Arundel Center
 - 18th Tuesday, June 27, 2017 6:30 to 8:30 PM Council Chambers, Arundel Center
Board Conflicts
 - 19th Wednesday, August 9, 2017 3:30 to 5:30 PM Council Chambers, Arundel Center
 - 20th Thursday, August 10, 2017 5:30 to 7:30 PM Council Chambers, Arundel Center
 - 21st Thursday, August 17, 2017 added 5:30 to 7:30 PM Council Chambers, Arundel Center
 - Note: The first Hearing was held Tuesday, August 16, 2016. That begins the second year.
- The YMCA of Annapolis at AACC: There is a 3-hearing appeal to the Board of Appeals in August of a modification approved for this project in Arnold that may need some investigation.
- Legislation to watch
 - Bill 32-17: AN ORDANANCE concerning: Zoning-Administrative Hearings - Board of Appeals -
 - Rezoning in Residential Districts. Introduced by Mr. Grasso. This was Withdrawn.
 - Bill 54-17. The Bill to change the present law concerning closing development due to school
 - capacity was defeated by a 4 to 3 vote.
 - Bill 64-17. To permit sheds, garages on lot with no principal structure under certain conditions.

Education Committee (Brad Myers)

We are putting together a committee to use as a meeting option for school cluster events as a coordination effort, which will also give GSPC more input.

Police / Community Relations (Doug Nichols)

- [National Night Out](#) is on August 1 at Earleigh Heights Fire Station. There will be free food, entertainment, and displays. It is fun for all ages, and usually has a K9 dog show. See New Business for GSPC motion to support National Night Out.
- The next Police Relations meeting is on June 21st. The speaker is a child abuse detective to talk about computer safety and online protectors. The meeting will be at [Eastern District Police Station](#) at 204 Pasadena Rd, Pasadena, MD 21122.
- Kensington community had people checking unlocked cars in their neighborhood. Make sure to lock your cars.

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

- Construction on Joyce Lane East will begin June 19 and run into September to accommodate new developments.
- Hilary Gonzalez has been promoted. Our new representative is Dawn Atkinson, and her number is (410) 841-1032.

ASPIRE Report (Maureen Carr York)

There was a dedication for Elizabeth Wyble, President of "Friends of Trails," next to the Chamber building this month.

SPHS Demo Committee (George Foote and Carol Boudman)

The old high school is almost down and expected to be finished by end of month. They are still crushing and sifting on site, and have planted Leeland Cypress trees in the parking lot next to Benfield Rd. They are continuing prep work as site is managed to put down top dressing and seed. April 2018 is when buses are allowed to go into bus entrance. They still have long way to go. Cars and buses are bottoming out at the entrance -- Art said this would happen a year ago and now it is.

Airport Noise Committee (Maureen Carr York)

There is a meeting on June 21 at North County Library near Harundale. Look for an email with more information.

Environmental Committee (Brad Royer)

- They attended a meeting about the concept of county compliance with habitat protected areas and will give information to the Department of Natural Resources. The Critical Area Commissions asked why they want to do this? Response was that had this been done decades ago, they might not be talking about Cattail Commons and Marsh Landing in this context.
- [Spriggs Farm Park](#) will allow public access on the Magothy River Water Trail.
- Paul Spadaro received a citation honoring his commitment to the Magothy River Association.

Old Business

- GSPC Director Art Timmons made a motion to approve the negotiated Cattail Caucus settlement. GSPC Director Bill Lippincott seconded the motion. **Motion adopted.**

- GSPC Director Amy Leahy made a motion to approve the Jumpers Hole Road Sidewalk minimum criteria of a sidewalk on the east side and bike lanes and/or wide shoulders on both sides. Motion was seconded by Mary Vogglesteen of Light Street Avenue. Discussion: Of the 4 [options](#), Doug Nichols of Shipley's Choice wanted to know why we would support anything but option 3. There was a request to review all the options. Maureen Carr York will send out an email with the link to the Jumpers Hole Road project information.
Motion tabled.

New Business

GSPC Treasurer Steve Poland made a motion to support National Night Out with \$200. **Motion adopted.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates

July 18, 2017 Special Summer Meeting at Old Severna Park Beach, 130 Maple Avenue, 7:30 p.m.

June 26, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting at Severna Park Library, 7:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Holly Slack.