



GREATER SEVERNA PARK COUNCIL
Meeting
Severna Park Library
November 13, 2012
Minutes



Go to: www.GSPCouncil.Org

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Vice President Brad Myers. Board Members present included Director Emeritus Dan Nataf, Director John Norville, and Kathy Michels, Secretary.

Mr. Myers noted that he was filling in for President Steve Poland who was out of town on family business. He also noted that if anyone has questions or wants to make a point or motion to please state your name and community so it is noted properly in the minutes. Mr. Myers welcomed new members Pat Wade of Cape Arthur, and Diana White of Chartwood, and thanked the delegates for attending and noted that if they have not signed in at the front desk to please do so. He also thanked County Councilman Dick Ladd for attending.

Passing of Two Members of the Greater Severna Park Council: Mr. Myers advised attendees that the following two long standing community volunteers and members of the Greater Severna Park Council passed away last week:

1. Larry Masterson was past president of the GSPC and served extensively on a lot of different groups within the GSPC and several communities within Anne Arundel County. He was also a major contributor and led the beautification effort along the median on Ritchie Highway and the planting of wildflowers on the B&A Trail.
2. Al Johnston was a long time community activist and leading figure and past president of the GSPC. He served on the GSPC as an advocate and contributor to the Anne Arundel County community since the 1960s.

Mr. Myers advised attendees that Director John Norville knew both Mr. Johnston and Mr. Masterson very well and asked him to provide additional background information for both in recognition of their service to the community and to honor them for their work on behalf of the communities they served.

About Mr. Masterson and Mr. Johnston:

Mr. Norville noted that he knew Mr. Masterson quite well and he was 73 years old when he passed away from an illness on November 4th. Burial services were held on November 8th. Mr. Masterson led the effort and was the founding father of the beautification committee not only for the Greater Severna Park Council but for the entire community which included tree planting and beautifying the median strip along Ritchie Highway. He was a Captain in the U.S. Army, and was a Senior Manager of the Department of Defense (NSA), and served as a Chapter Commander to the Military Order of World Wars, Ft. Meade Chapter. He was a highly dedicated member of several community organizations serving as President of the Greater Severna Park Council, Greater Odenton Recreation Council, and Woodbridge Forest Homeowners Association. He also coached Little League Football.

Mr. Masterson's full obituary is available on the Barranco Funeral Home website: www.barrancofuneralhome.com. Click on his photo on the right side of the page and you will see his full obituary.

Mr. Norville advised that an obituary for Mr. Johnston is also included on the above funeral home website, and a story on his contributions to the community was published in *The Capital* on Monday, November 12th.

Mr. Johnston passed away on Saturday, November 10th at the age of 88. A Memorial Service will be held at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, Severna Park, at 10 AM on Thursday, November 15th.

Mr. Johnston was a graduate of Harvard Law School and served in the Signal Corps for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during World War II. He later became a patent attorney, but switched careers to work in employee relations for Westinghouse and later as an employee benefits consultant. He served three separate terms as President of the GSPC, and was a dedicated activist and worked on several Anne Arundel County Councils, Committees and transition teams, and worked on the County General Development Plans, Severna Park small area plans, and Comprehensive Rezoning. He served as a Director of the Elephant Club, and was a member of Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church and worked on the building and facility committee and helped with the building and parking lot renovations. He also was an active member of the AARP, earning the group's statewide community service award in 2009, and was President of the AARP's Severna Park Chapter.

Expressions of Sympathy: You may also add a note and make a memorial contribution to Mr. Masterson and Mr. Johnston as noted in their obituaries posted on the above Barranco Funeral Home website.

A moment of silence was observed in Memory of Past GSPC Presidents Larry Masterson and Al Johnston.

Tonight's Nominating Committee Discussion: Vice President Myers noted that a discussion will be held later this evening regarding the 2013 Nominating Committee, but there is no one person who will fill Mr. Johnston's shoes in this organization so it is the time that we need to push to get more involvement both at the Board level and in the types of things that Mr. Johnston ran for the GSPC for many years. Hopefully he can encourage everyone to make a push as we come into the new year to try and get more involvement all around. So please step forward and be a part of this if you can.

Secretary's Report: Vice President Myer's noted that the Minutes for the GSPC Meeting on October 9th have not been distributed by President Poland. Therefore, the Minutes will be set aside until the report is emailed to delegates by Mr. Poland and approval will be delayed until the next general GSPC meeting December 11.

Adoption of Treasurer's Report: Vice President Myers advised that he is covering the Treasurer's Report for Mr. Poland who is also the Treasurer. Basically there have not been a lot of changes in the finances since the last report. The checking account balances as of September 30th have not changed from \$7,156.16, and there is approximately \$375.00 in checks pending which covers the increase in insurance premiums for the coming year. There is \$5,864.36 in Smith Barney money market funds, and 5 CDs totaling \$25,000. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as discussed was unanimously approved and a copy will be filed for the record for audit purposes.

(1) GUEST SPEAKER – Dan Nataf, Ph.D., Director Emeritus, GSPC, and Director of the Center for the Study of Local Issues (CSLI), Anne Arundel Community College: Vice President Myers noted that guest speaker, Dan Nataf, who is also a long time board member of the GSPC, will provide an overview of the results of the Survey of Anne Arundel County Residents conducted each March and October. Dr. Nataf noted that it is special not having Mr. Johnston here since he was always part of our review, and he would come back and say that is not the way the system works and explain to them, and they heavily depended on Mr. Johnston. He also noted that he doesn't know how we can compensate for what Mr. Johnston was and contributed since he surely was one of the brightest persons he ever knew. He had an incredible memory of details and could tell you the names of cases, people, and plaintiff's. He also noted that if anyone feels they are close to Mr. Johnston in that capacity to please think about joining the Board. He wishes there were more people that had the spirit of volunteerism as well as the leadership capacity that Mr. Johnston had which was special and made him a very special human being.

Overview of Local Issues Survey and Summary Results: Dr. Nataf presented the results of the latest survey conducted by the Center for the Study of Local Issues at Anne Arundel Community College Oct.15-18. The main focus of the survey was to identify certain trends - such as in the percentage of those saying that the county was headed in the right or wrong direction, or the percentage saying that the county's economy was excellent, good, fair or poor. In addition, the survey also inquired about individuals' experiences with the economy in a variety of ways - unemployment, inflation, health care coverage, and housing costs.

Some of these were linked to differences in the propensity to vote for President Obama or for certain referendum items on the November ballot including: (1) legalizing same sex marriage, (2) Allowing children of illegal immigrants to attend Maryland community colleges and universities at "in-state" tuition rates, (3) Upholding the boundaries for congressional districts created by the state legislature, (4) Allowing the creation of a 6th casino in Prince George's County, table games at all casinos, and more slot machines overall, (5) Allowing the county council to replace the county executive if convicted of certain crimes without waiting for any appeals, and (6) Allowing the party leaders in the relevant central committee to break a tie when the county council cannot pick a replacement county executive or council member.

Dr. Nataf also briefly discussed support for a program to provide pet owners low-cost spaying and neutering program services as well as the public's perceptions of ways to "achieve and maintain a healthy weight" which was a certain part of the Anne Arundel County Health Department.

The full presentation is available on line at:

<http://www2.aacc.edu/CSLI/csli/Presentations/2012/GSPC%2011-13-12.ppt>.

2013 Nominating Committee Overview:

For the record: On October 24th at the GSPC Board Meeting, based on Dr. Nataf's recommendation that Director John Norville continue as the Nominating Committee Chairman for 2013, Mr. Poland motioned for approval which was unanimously approved.

Approved Nominating Committee, Call for Candidates and 2013 Elections: Mr. Norville stated that in accordance with the by-laws requiring at least two members be appointed to the Nominating Committee, he has nominated Charlie Miller & Jack Mason who have faithfully served on the Nominating Committee in past years and bring a lot of experience, but they themselves are not candidates.

Mr. Norville asked attendees if there were any other volunteers or nominees that would like to be on the Nominating Committee. Hearing none, Mr. Norville stated that the nominations are closed and the two nominations are accepted by acclamation and moved for approval which was unanimously approved.

The first call for candidates was on October 9th, and this is a second call. The third and final call will be at the next GSPC meeting on December 11th. If anyone is interested in being a candidate, please contact the Nominating Committee Members: Mr. Norville, Mr. Miller or Mr. Mason. Fortunately the incumbents have agreed to be candidates for the upcoming year. The Nominating Committee will present the slate of candidates at the December 11th GSPC meeting and will also accept any other candidates. The Board welcomes new members, and candidates should be prepared to attend GSPC meetings especially the monthly Board Meetings.

After the December 11th final call for candidates at the GSPC meeting, electronic voting will be conducted by President Poland.

Note: Mr. Norville welcomes any comments: **410-987-0287**.

Public Works Committee – Dan Nataf, GSPC Director Emeritus: Dr. Nataf advised that there was no new or updated information to report.

County Councilman Dick Ladd: Mr. Myers noted that Mr. Ladd had some public works issues to discuss as follows:

Grinder Pumps: Councilman Ladd asked attendees if anyone comes from a neighborhood that has grinder pumps from septic. He noted that there were two storms where they lost power and had very bad experiences. They have worked through the County and now have a standard wherein an electrician can hook a 220 line generator onto your grinder pump but it has to be outside of your house. There are a number of communities that have this problem, and he is just trying to get the word out.

Al Johnston: Out of respect to his dear friend Al Johnston, a proposal has been made to establish a scholarship at the College of a \$10,000 endowment, and Councilman Ladd noted that he highly supports it and just wanted to let everyone know. Mr. Norville advised Mr. Ladd that the Board of Directors will discuss the scholarship at the next meeting on November 28th. Mr. Myers also noted that he suspects there will be other things brought forward regard to a memorial for Mr. Johnston.

Manning Fire Stations in Gambrills: There has been some discussion in the paper about manning the fire stations over in Gambrills and toward Davidsonville where they have a number of fire stations that are manned by two regular full time people and two volunteers. He has asked around whether we have any similar problems and the answer to that question is no in the sense that we only have one fire station and maybe two that are manned partially by volunteers, and they are the fire stations in Arnold and Earleigh Heights. But the level of participation that we are seeing in our volunteers here is a little better than it is over on the other side of the County. The bottom line is that the rate of participation by volunteer fireman after they go through all the training is down in our past strategy of relying on and utilizing volunteer fireman in our fire department and public service safety, and we need to start paying attention to this issue since we may not be able to count on volunteers in those areas.

Safety on our Roads with the Intersections with B&A Trail: There have been a couple people that have come to them saying that we need to be careful and everyone here tries to be very cautious and careful at the particular intersections. He asked if anyone in attendance has concerns about it or feels that it would be a detriment to the traffic flow if some sort of traffic calming devices would be a little easier to see on the trails, and maybe even put speed bumps on the trails for people on bikes. He would like to talk with anyone who has concerns or interests regarding trail safety so he knows what the concerns are.

Councilman Dick Ladd's Comments – Continued:

Safety on our Roads with the Intersections with B&A Trail- Continued: An attendee noted that on the trails crossing Robinson Road you don't know what drivers are going to do and whether or not they will stop. Mr. Ladd noted that cars have the right of way and people on the trail are supposed to stop. Mr. Myers noted that there are stop signs on the trails. Mr. Ladd advised that they have inquired whether or not Park and Recreation people have issued tickets but they do not and they have had some discussion about it. There are some things that can be done on the trails so that people can't come rolling through on their bikes.

Mr. Ladd stated that he has asked, but has not gotten a report back yet, that someone ride up and down the trail to make sure that there is a line of sight from the public trail and from the street, and determine what kind of things could be done. And it is unique since throughout the entire trail, probably the heaviest amount of vehicle traffic that has to be navigated is here in Severna Park.

There are some island designs that you can put in some of the roadways where you have three lanes and you almost have a sanctuary in the middle and you can see where they have put plastic signs up and they have been taken down. Mr. Ladd also noted that they are looking at reasonable solutions and he doesn't know what kind of options Parks and Recreation will come back with, but as he previously stated, he would appreciate a phone call from anyone who has concerns or thinks something needs to be done, please call him. Mr. Myers also commented that as someone who deals with both sides of it since he uses the trail frequently, the concept of putting speed bumps on the trails is a horrible idea as far as the trail is concerned. Especially since there hasn't really been issues, it doesn't mean there may not be issues, but he thinks there is a certain amount of that's what it is. And, if you have a crosswalk you have to yield the right of way, and if someone is in the crosswalk you have to yield to them since it is a State law. It is a difficult thing, but, Mr. Myers, noted that he thinks it is one that really takes caution but clearly people on the trail think they have the right of way. I think it is one that takes caution and clearly people on the trail tend to have an attitude that they think they have the right of way. Mr. Ladd noted that he appreciates the comments and he is just asking because they are looking and there may be some reasonable solution that is attractive and effective and something that can be done. But if it's something that no one thinks is a problem then they won't continue to look for solutions.

Whites Road and B&A Trail Crosswalks: Mr. Ladd noted that one other issue that has been commented on before is the crosswalks at Whites Road, and right now on Whites Road it goes straight ahead into the new development, and the plan approved was to have Whites Road go all the way through to the new development. Dr. Nataf commented that he was more concerned about Whites Road and the intersection at Ritchie Highway. Mr. Ladd noted that there also is another issue and previously Whites Road would come up and make a right turn and come down about 100 yards and make another turn across B&A Trail, and run up to Jennings Road. But when they put the subdivision in the plan was made to run Whites Road straight through the subdivision, and would make one cross over B&A Trail and hit Jennings Road on the other side. But there are barriers out there which mean you can't go through and they moved the stop signs around. He thinks the answer is to get the barriers removed and go ahead and close the other crossing for B&A Trail, and there would only be one crossing that has been there for awhile and has been on Whites Road.

Education Committee – Brad Myers, Director: Mr. Myers noted that there is one main issue that there is concern about. There is a new push afoot because there is a lot of concern about the funding for the high school. It's a new budget season and we have a lot of concerns about the funding for the high school project since there were a lot of things battered around in the last go around between the Board of Education and the County Council, and threatening that project has also been other issues people are raising for other projects, and there is a new push for another high school in Crofton. The Capital Budget approved by the Board of Education did include funding for the Severna Park High School project and, as expected, that was approved. There is a second budget approval process that the Board of Education goes through when they approve their operating budget that he thinks reapproves the Capital Budget at that time, but he is not clear whether they can make alterations to the budget. From there it goes to County Executive Leopold and hopefully the high school project will be approved, and moved forward to the County Council for approval.

As usual there is a push afoot to push out to the community and push out to the schools, and the parents of the schools to write letters and to contact everyone involved in the process, and as the GSPC gets more information will forward on to everyone.

Education Committee – Brad Myers, Director – Continued:

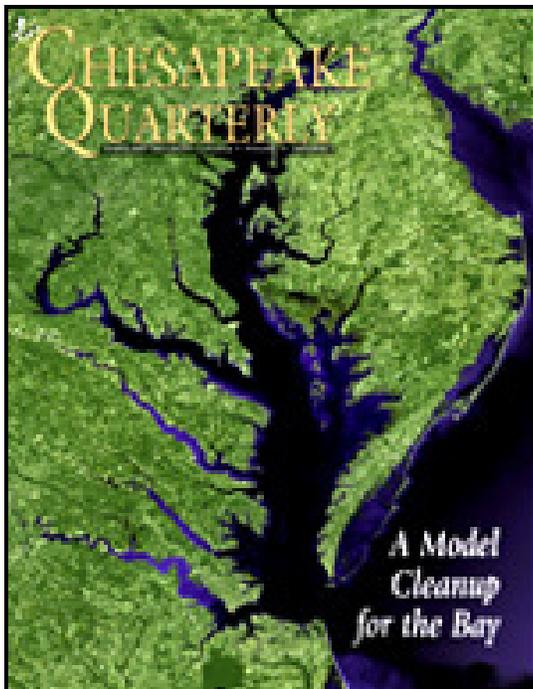
Mr. Ladd advised that the one significant thing that did happen is that the Board of Education approved the final design package. If they were trying to stop it they would have shot that approval down and delayed or caused them to go back and do some design work whether it was substantive or not, but delay it long enough that you couldn't go on contract early. He has asked again, if you approve the budget the way they proposed it with funding starting this coming June, when would you break ground. He was told that you wouldn't break ground until January because it takes 6-months to go through all the permitting, etc., and that's what they were told before. So the art of this deal is to find a way to get started in January, and have enough money in the bank to go on contract for 24 months. People will not like tying up \$24 million which is about 6 months worth of construction money, and not having it used. We have to do some work to make sure that we don't have \$24 million sitting around doing nothing which is 6 months worth of money we don't need to put on the table.

Mr. Ladd also noted that the other thing he thinks no one needs to worry about is the challenge to put a 13th High School in Crofton since they don't even have the money to do the design yet. There are some powerful people pushing for that but the realignment and redistricting is something the School Board is loath to take on, and he doesn't think there is enough support in the Council to take our high school to build their high school. It may be something they can do through the Board of Education, but at this point he doesn't give it much credence.

Environment Committee Report - Ann Jackson & Ed Krause, Watershed Stewards: Mr. Myers noted that Ms. Jackson was not in attendance but she submitted the following Environmental Report which also contains an update and pertinent information on the status of the Shipley's Choice Dam Project.

A Model Cleanup for the Bay

There is a great article about the Bay cleanup efforts in this edition of the Chesapeake Quarterly. The Chesapeake Quarterly is a publication of the Maryland Sea Grant program. The article explains in easily understood language the science behind the Total Maximum Daily Load and the efforts to clean up the bay.



<http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/CQ/v11n3/index.html>

Cleaning Up the Bay: Big Science, Big Plan

Environment Committee Report - Ann Jackson & Ed Krause, Watershed Stewards - Continued

Maintain Your Drain

If your storm drain looks like this, those leaves could do the following:

- ❖ clog the storm drains causing flooding and the need for expensive clean outs
- ❖ add to pollution by adding more nitrogen to the rivers and creeks (leaves are high in nitrogen)

Keep your leaves out of the storm drain-compost them, mow them, or bag and remove

Consider adopting your nearest storm drain and keeping leaves out! Only rain in the storm drain!



Update on Bear Branch/Shiple's Choice Dam Project

Q543001 – Shiple's Choice Dam Rehabilitation

Status (as of 9/27/2012)

The project is currently in the design and permitting phases. We anticipate the completion of permitting in December of 2012. The design is approximately 90% completion and should be completed in January/February 2013. We expect to advertise for bids in the spring with a construction start in August of 2013. The overall construction duration is two years. Upon completion of construction, the project will start a five-year environmental monitoring period.

Construction will be phased to start with the culvert replacement along West Benfield Road, followed by removal of the dam and stream restoration. We currently estimate the culvert replacement to take approximately 4 months (August 2013 to November 2013) to complete, during which West Benfield Road will be closed. Dam removal is expected to start in November 2013 and to be completed by April 2014. Stream restoration will take the remainder of the projects two year duration. We currently project that construction will be completed in July 2015.

This schedule may be impacted by the acquisition of right-of-way. The County has successfully negotiated or acquired 10 of the 11 rights-of-ways. It appears that the right-of-way for one drainage easement may have to be required through the condemnation process. This could delay the start of the construction by up to one year.

Health on the Bay and Rivers – Councilman Dick Ladd: Mr. Ladd advised that anyone interested in health on the bay and rivers should know that they are moving quickly to get a Bill ready to be considered in the Council around the 1st of January which will implement the State mandate to establish a “Clean Up the Bay Fee.” It is another piece of the complement to the flush tax. This tax will be the one that will go to start cleaning up the streams and all the out flows equivalent to what we are doing to the Dam project at Shiple's.

Mr. Ladd also noted that it will show up as a fee on your property tax and will start the 1st of July and paid by September.

Police-Community Relations Report: Julie Krause, Chair, advised that there was no new information to report.

Greater Severna Park Chamber of Commerce: No report.

GSPC Zoning/Legislation Agenda and Actions: Roy Higgs, GSPC Director, was not in attendance and no report was submitted for the record.

Old/Unfinished Business: No report.

New Business:

Hurricane Sandy and County's Disaster and Evacuation Plan:

In response to a suggestion from an attendee to invite someone from the County to discuss what the County has in place for disaster and evacuation planning, Mr. Myers noted that it was a great idea and he will work on inviting the County to come and discuss the County's disaster and evacuation plans, what is currently in place and what is needed, and what would happen in a scenario like New Jersey and New York.

Mr. Ladd also noted that a question that needs to be asked is how BGE treats utility crossarms. When you go up and down Rt. 2 look at the telephone poles, there are some places where there are 2, 3, and 4 crossarms each with 4 lines, and they are some of the major regional distribution hubs. It's an important question to ask how BGE treats those lines differently than ones with one crossarm with 2 lines on it.

Mr. Myers noted that these are all good questions and good points and he will work on it.

Next GSPC Meeting Dates and November Speakers:

- Board of Directors Meeting: **Wednesday, November 28 – 7:30 pm – Severna Park Library**
- General Meeting: **Tuesday, December 11, 2012 – 7:30 pm – Severna Park Library**

Speakers:

1. GSPC 2013 Nominating Committee Overview:

John Norville, Director GSPC and Chairman, 2013 Nominating Committee will provide the Nomination Committee Report of proposed candidates, and provide the Final Nominations Report for the Delegates Elections

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Very respectfully submitted:



Kathleen J. Michels, GSPC Secretary – November 21, 2012