



GREATER SEVERNA PARK COUNCIL

General Meeting Minutes

www.gspcouncil.org

[Facebook](#)

April 10, 2018



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

Vice-President Brad Myers called the Greater Severna Park Council Board Meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

Guest Speaker: County Executive Steve Schuh

Anne Arundel County's population is about to pass Baltimore. Unemployment at 3%. Median Household income is 95k, which is in top 30 of all US. His 5 major priorities are:

1. Reduce taxes: We have had 3 straight years of tax rate cuts and accumulated 65mil so far. Keeps our economy going.
2. Improve public education with school construction: had not built new high school since 1992. No plans 3 years ago to build. We have highest average enrollment per school in entire state. 3 all new high schools. Already broken ground in Crofton. Old mill is next. Next is western county which will relieve Meade.
3. Drug safety: New central booking facility. Game changer for public safety. Central booking next to jail, professional intake personnel does booking. Otherwise, can tie up 3-5 hrs. Average fleet is younger.
4. Reform county government: Turn around times better. Budget is balanced, and in surplus. 50mil technology enhancement.
5. Clean up water ways: 50mil cleanup effort. Building on progress on last 20 years. Dramatic improvements in water quality. Highest point in bay health since 1960s. Recreational infrastructure: bike trails. Opening up boat ramps. Only 3% of shoreline is in public hands. 97% is in private hands. Building kayak launches. Road maintenance budgets. Look for an exciting announcement in a few months about road maintenance.

New plan:

1. Managing lands and waterways. Launching GDP. Making sure we manage growth and preserve rural lands. 51% of county is rural. 49% is in developed or developable zoning categories.
2. Uplifting people with challenges. An immensely prosperous place. Still, people are suffering around us. 300 people living without roof overnight. Can see from Rt 10. 80k people suffering from mental illness. People suffering from addiction: 25k people. 1 out of 20 adults. 1k overdoses last year. This year's numbers are worse. Fatalities are up, but overdoses are down. 600 people have presented themselves for help at safe stations. Go to police stations to get help.

3. Improving educational experience of young people. Accelerating school constructions. 3 years of pay increases. Overly large student to teacher ratio problems. Some are 40-1. Not consistent with quality education.
4. Maintaining prosperity by moderating taxes and fees, recruiting companies, making sure people have job skills they need. Workforce development in county can help those people.
5. Multi-million dollar backlog of maintenance project, especially roads, school maintenance, and county buildings. Need to get creative, working with private sector and building relationships. Partnerships with private sector developers. They pay to rehabilitate public housing units, we contribute land, they put market rate next to public housing. Looking for mixed income community.
6. Most of taxes for county are from income taxes, not property taxes, as is often believed. County Admin. does not push for increased development just to increase the tax base for more property taxes.

Q&A:

1. How can we best support you if we agree with your bills? (John Norville)

Code changes for land use. System is somewhat broken. Legislation will alter how we plan and zone in AA county. Concept would establish 8 yr continuing cycle: 2 yrs of general development planning. 5 yrs of small area planning. GDP, zoning, small area planning. Cycle would perpetuate itself. 10-12 yrs is too long before GDP. Small area plans are currently optional, why they are ignored. 8 yr cycle proposal required by law means they will not get stale. Reduce number of modifications. Goal is to reduce 50%. Things have gotten too loose. Variances also gotten to loose. Knock variance issues by 40%. Asked county council to impose moratorium on upscale zoning. Can't keep moving things around. One bill died already. There will be hearings coming this Monday and then every other Monday. Channel 98 local government tv. 7pm every other Monday. Email councilman on any of these bills.

2. How do you balance 51/49 land use? (Bill Lippencott)

49% is not developed. Some of it is developable, like where roads are or planned to go. Enough development opportunity to leave rural areas alone. Real opportunity is redevelopment of north county area. Areas that are 70-80 yrs old. Buy houses in Curtis bay and grandchildren will be wealthy. People said Eastport was a dump and look at it now. We're running out of water communities. Harundale has small affordable homes, but immense opportunity to do all. Making it more attractive and safety. Fixing what we have. Study plans, issue permits, etc.

3. We are 51% developable. Do we have any protections? What kind of protections will there be for our local areas? Severna Park has 5 developments within 3 miles planned. Each one separately are ok, but all 5 is detrimental. Schools are overcrowded from overdevelopment. Put in portables and can build 150 homes. Is there anything to protect community in the future? (Lisa Bender)

General development plan will help. Everyone needs to participate in GDP and make sure priorities are reflected. Once a parcel is designated for growth, it's just a matter of time. Zoning is most important. Make sure you participate in GDP process. Reducing modifications and variances just push in rough edges.

4. Protections still mandated by state? Why can't county protect habitats? That tool could limit development. (Anonymous)

I am not a land use expert. We have used critical areas laws to advance purposes of provisions of area code. Not practical to preserve.

5. Kids coming out of college with large debt. No easy process to become teacher if no degree specific to teaching. Is there a thought process to attract some of these people? (Anonymous)

Private school system routinely brings in people like that. Problem is teaching union. Hard to close in. They want to keep the numbers tight and salaries up. Flooding the system will get downward pressure on salaries.

6. Thank you for 95% capacity bill. Has administration thought about partnering with mental health professionals which would come at little cost to taxpayers? (Amanda Fiedler)

Good idea. Schools do not have enough psychiatrists or counselors. It is hard to fix one thing and ignore all others.

7. What can you do about the slew of last minute County Council GDP Land Use Zoning Legislation that may not have enough time for citizens' adequate review? (Anonymous)

The bill that just failed would have taken that power away from the councilmen. It will happen again since they would not give up that power. The councilmen might be more wary how the exercise that power next time. Not bring out at 11:30 at night day before while no one is looking. Last county executive vetoed a lot, but overridden on some.

8. Thank you for your bill restricting locations and displays, etc. of medical marijuana pharmacies. (Pat Lynch)

The door is too open to recreational use. We have taken approach with very strict requirements which will strongly get companies to gear towards medical aspect. Cannot be within 1 miles of other dispensary. Doctor cannot be at dispensary. No marijuana signs. No retail style displays. The product has to be behind the counter locked away. They will help you get the right product, but not every teenager can load up.

9. How do you see the kind of growth the small area plan should think about accommodating? (Dick Ladd)

Our starting premise should be no, and make people make compelling case why property should be upzoned. Crofton developer requested to upzone rural piece to give county parcel for new school and library. We don't need new development to meet budget obligations. AA county is not a junkie who relies on new development. We rely on increasing household incomes, because most relying on household taxes and slightly property taxes, even though revenue will never exceed 2%.

10. Are we doing anything from preservation? (Mary Vogglesteen)

Goal of GDP is to keep rural areas rural. There is a vigorous forest conservation program, and now vigorously planting trees. There are 300 different projects around county designed to enhance environment.

11. All the developments and building projects are increasing traffic at an alarming rate, especially on Ritchie highway. How can you allow more traffic than our roads have the capacity for? (Anonymous)

Traffic is a function of land planning. We are due for better roads. It's not been our turn and sorely lacking in funds at state level. Redirection of funds away from roads towards mass transit. We don't have mass transit so we were hurt by that.

Committee Reports

Chamber of Commerce (Dylan Roche)

- Joint business exchange breakfast at Hellas on Thursday
- Saturday, May 19, Park Plaza will be celebrating importance of Shop Local.

Planning/Zoning/Legislation (Art Timmons)

- Bill 17-18 hasn't decided when ending is for freeze. Watch next few council meetings. Go online and read bills.
- Board of appeals: Sabrina Park. 18 people opposed except 1. Only had 5 Board members present. Decided needed all 7 people. Tabled until all 7 were there.
- Call 311 with any questions about county government.
- Betsy Hein with Woodberry: community meeting on Ritchie hwy of Severna park Thursday 6:15 Columbian center.
- St. Martin's School Project Update (Denise Hill from Harlequin):
Questioned stormwater management. When first applied, they don't have to improve. Took to state, but calculations were wrong. Hired engineer to check numbers on permit. St martins is referencing letter from January. Public works said there was only 1 comment. The letter harlequin received had 27 comments. Questioning who has the right letter? 27 comments or 1? No traffic study. Got permits for trailers. Expired in 2008 and never granted another permit. Less than 50 trips. Worried about enrollment today. Affects Colchester more. Why no traffic study requirement? They also had a Stop work order ordered Nov 20, 2015. Disturbed over 12k ft. stop work order issued but never satisfied. County says they don't have it. Dan Kane said they would not give time to let engineer review. The community is not officially opposed to the project, but want everything to go through the proper channels.

Education Committee (Brad Myers)

No report today. Cluster is meeting tomorrow at High School.

Police/Community relations (Doug Nichols)

Eastern District PCRC Meeting is on April 18, 2018 at 7:30pm. Address is 204 Pasadena Rd. Lt. Frasure and K9 Comfort will be attending.

Public Works (Erin O'Neill)
No report.

SPHS demo committee (George Foote)
This ad-hoc committee's work has been completed.
The gate is locked to neighbors so they can't exercise on field like they did in the past. Pat Daly will look into this.

Airport Noise Committee (Linda Curry)
Report sent to delegation via email.

Environmental committee (Lisa Bender)
"Creating an Eco-Friendly Backyard" on Sunday, April 29, 2018 from 2-4:30pm at Severna Park Library.

ASPIRE Report (John Norville and Amy Leahy)
Holly Slack received a GSPC-nominated Annual Leadership Award along with eight others at the March 28 Banquet at Chartwell Country Club. Three received the Heritage Awards, including Pat Troy.

Unfinished business:
None.

New business:
None.

Next meetings:
Delegation: May 8, 2018 SP Library 7:30pm--State Legislators wrap up.
Board of Directors: April 23, 2018 SP Library 7:15pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:04pm.