



THE FOREST HILL COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD Minutes

January 26, 2021

Online Zoom Meeting

Members & Representatives in Attendance

Bernie Schweigman – Chairperson

Thom Ellenbecker - Secretary

Cathy Ohler – Board Member

Nancy Reynolds – Board Member

Elena Skittle-Watson – Board Member

Daniel Sekowsky – Board Member

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

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

Chad Shrodes – Harford County Councilman

Aurora Kahoe – Legislative Aide to Councilman Shrodes

Kathleen Burley – Director, Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation

Billy Boniface – Chief Advisor to the Harford County Executive, Barry Glassman

Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bernie Schweigman at 7:03 pm.

November minutes read-in by Thom Ellenbecker and accepted.

A crime report for Forest Hill was presented by Captain Brooks for the period of Dec/Jan 2020 2021.

- Call volumes consider to remain low
- Thefts from Autos did increase. 12 cases have been tied to two recent arrests. Remember to lock your cars both at home and while you are out.

Guest Speaker: Kathleen Burley and Billy Boniface

- Plans were announced for spring reopening across parks and rec in 4 phases. All participants are required to abide by governor orders as they stand
 - Phase 1: 2/1 - fields reopening for organized activities, cedar lanes and skate park also reopening
 - Phase 2: 3/1 – club teams, outdoor pavilion rentals
 - Phase 3: TBD as program staff has opportunity to be vaccinated – Indoor programs including Swan Harbor, Tennis and partner activities (no senior centers)
 - Phase 4: TBD upon authorization of County Executive & Health department – Full Opening
 - Outdoor parks remain open for socially distant use.
- Ma & Pa Trail Extension:
 - Phase 1 - Done: Trail head to 924.

- Phase 2 - starts March'21 to be done Spring'22: 924 to North Avenue
- Phase 3 – tentatively starts March'22 to be done Spring'23: North Avenue to Blakes Venture Park. Tentative because the designs are going through a 8 month funding process that will result in 50-60% of funding coming from federal sources but has certainly delayed vs what might have happened if Harford County attempted to go it alone in building out this trail.
- Other Recent / Upcoming improvements:
 - Work continues of Forest Hill / Hickory recreation center (arena plexiglass)
 - Ma & Pa walking bridges repaired
 - Ravens huddle for 100
 - Prospect mill park improvements in FY22, Blake's Venture park improvements in FY25
 - Developing water trails with public access throughout the county
 - Belleview Farm Property peninsula – a great new addition looking to be a passive use park that protects privacy of neighbors
 - Seeking input on improvements for the Dog Park and Edgewood Park

County updates – Larry Richardson, Policy Director for Harford County's Office of the County Executive, Chad Shrodes – Harford County Councilman, Aurora Kahoe – Legislative Aide to Councilman Shrodes

- Covid vaccine distribution – pushing Governor for giving a higher priority to city employees, not enough vaccine yet coming ou.
- Maryland has restarted assistance programs, including emergency rental assistance. If anyone needs assistance, please reach out to Larry Richardson to get connected with available services and programs.
- New Forest Hill Business: Mr Souvlaki now open at Bel Air North Village – great reviews from those who already visited.
- County prioritizing body cameras for all law enforcement officers (county, cities) which will be phased in over the next 2-3 years regardless of if the state mandates them.

Citizen questions:

- What is going on with Maryland's Legislative session:
 - Limited sessions, virtual meetings.
 - Attempts to limit bills to those relevant to limited changes needed in this year were unsuccessful
 - School funding bill (Kirwan) veto from last session expected to be overridden
 - Police Reform bills are numerous and very disjointed: abolishing LEOBR remains on the table, no real definition of what police reform means or what should be accomplished in this session, resulting in everything related to law enforcement now being challenged by the legislature.
 - County interests:
 - Fully fund county health departments (Staff pay, new hires)
 - Expand broadband in rural areas

- Block state transferals of higher cost burdens to counties (e.g. teach or pensions or other subtraction modifications) - this includes a proposal to cut state income taxes but transferring higher cost burdens to counties
- Citizens police academy plans this year?
 - Switched to a virtual police academy for now, exploring when to restart in-person sessions

Meeting adjourned by Chairperson Bernie Schweigman at 7:58 PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 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
Catherine Ohler
Nancy Reynolds
Elena Skittle-Watson
Daniel Sekowski
Steven Davids

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

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