

Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Meeting - Draft

July 10, 2017, 7:00 pm

College Park City Hall

1. Call to Order/Introductions

PJ Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:06pm and requested members to review the minutes from the April meeting while the group awaited the arrival of a few more members.

The meeting attendees were:

Richard Biffi, PJ Brennan, Paul Carlson, Bill Gardiner, Karyn Keating-Volke, Dave Lloyd, Anne Martens, Adler Pruitt, Bob Ryan, Bob Schnabel, Scott Somers, Aaron Springer, Stephanie Stullich, Alex Tobin, Patrick Wojahn (arrived 8:00pm)

2. General Announcements

A Third Thirsty Thursday planning meeting is scheduled for August 9 at 7:00pm. A schedule will be made available for the rest of the fiscal year at that time.

PJ sent out email that "LiveCollegePark" is live. It is a static page, but all feedback is welcome. Please send any feedback to PJ and he will share with City Council.

The Senior Art Show had great participation. It brought quite many residents together.

City Council is working on formalizing a Good Neighbor Award and will highlight students. The first Good Neighbor Award was given to James Mulholland.

There is a community picnic on the UMD campus with new students on Friday, August 25. Gloria Aparicio is coordinating this picnic.

The GSA has cancelled the FBI headquarters project. Greenbelt Metro Station was one of the finalist locations.

Discussed open seats on this committee: IFC, Pan Hellenic, Graduate Students

3. Review and Approve Minutes from April 10, 2017

PJ requested a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Adler Pruitt so moved, Aaron Springer seconded, and the committee approved unanimously.

4. Creation and dissemination of a video targeted for UMD Students living in College Park

Scott Somers shared a two-minute video from Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ that is shown to all students. It addresses not only campus life, but life in the town of Tempe. The committee loved the idea of this video and would like to do something in conjunction with UMD for students. Anne Martens stated that Brian Allman's replacement will be announced soon and once he/she is on board, Anne will approach about handling the video. It was decided that it should be a collaborative effort between UMD marketing, students and assistance from the City of College Park Communications Coordinator. Adler Pruitt stated he will ensure that the student government will assist in the video. Bob Schnabel stated he would like a resident to be a part of the committee that works on the video. Bob Ryan reminded the committee that the Resident Information Guide, in both English and Spanish, is distributed to all owners and owners are required to give to their tenants. It was also suggested that the College Park residents website page should be redesign and updated. PJ Brennan stated that the City Communications Coordinator is working on the website RFP.

5. Address Housing Code Issues and Rights of Renters (Strategies 10 and 13)

Discussion concerning housing code issues and how to disseminate the information especially to the UMD students. Ideas included a public awareness campaign; posters and flyers posted in bars, restaurants, and on campus; social media including asking for access to student closed groups on Facebook; email. Both Alex Tobin and Adler Pruitt stated that emails are not very effective for the students; posters, Instagram may be a better instrument for sending information. It was also stated that the students do not really associate themselves with College Park government. If they have housing issues, they go to the Off-Campus Housing office for help. The international students have a good network with the International student office on campus if they need assistance.

6. Other Topics discussed:

- i. Affordable housing** – Prince Georges County is doing a study on affordable housing around the Purple Line.
- ii. Student move-in period** – Students seem to have nothing to do when moving into campus and for quite a number of days there are tailgating parties. Suggestion was made for the neighborhoods to have block parties. It would be a way of welcoming the students and introducing to the permanent residents. Adler Pruitt stated that it would be helpful if the school year started after Labor Day. SGA has spoken about the university calendar, but it is set by the Provost.
- iii. Freshmen picnic** – only for students, residents are not invited.
- iv. Good Neighbor Day** – Great idea to move Good Neighbor Day or add an additional day to late September, October. Better way for students to meet the residents and work on building a mutual appreciation.

7. Annual Report

Copies of the Annual Report, which covers a 2-year period, were distributed. There are some metrics without data that need to be completed.

8. Adjourn – next meeting 7 pm Monday, September 11.

Adler Pruitt moved to adjourn the meeting, and Paul Carlson seconded the motion. The group supported the motion unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sheryl DeWalt, Contract Secretary