

DRAFT COALITION CHARTER – as amended 9/6/19

Introduction

This document proposes the formation of a Coalition of community groups to support development that results in a high quality of life for residents of the City of Annapolis and adjacent areas of Anne Arundel County within the Forest Drive/Eastport/Bay Ridge corridor of the Annapolis Neck Peninsula. We need a Coalition now to provide effective and sustaining citizen representation and advocacy for city and county land use planning and zoning to enhance (not detract from) the quality of life. The basis of the coalition now exists and is comprised of the Eastport Civic Association, the Annapolis Neck Peninsula Federation, the Bay Ridge Civic Association, the Greater Parole Community Association, the Hillsmere Association and the Bay Woods Association.

The Coalition believes that development in accordance with criteria based on quality of life considerations is feasible, provided that feedback is obtained from residents who understand the city's and county's land use plans, have helped prepare them, and understand the need for concurrent infrastructure investments from governmental jurisdictions.

Development planning should focus on mobility (for pedestrians, bicyclists, privately owned vehicles, recreational green spaces and public transit) and land-use's impact on quality of life, schools and the environment.

The Coalition Will:

Participate in the review of comprehensive plans, sector studies, and zoning changes as well as individually proposed residential, commercial, and retail developments.

Work with City and County planners to determine standards and parameters for land use and zoning that can be used to hold developers accountable for following them. Such standards will encompass the need to provide adequate public facilities.

Establish relationships for dialogue with city and county planners and decision makers and developers to explain the citizen's point of view and negotiate solutions to issues.

Raise awareness of the short and long-term mobility problems that exist and the urgent need to address these problems.

Lobby the City of Annapolis to pass a robust adequate facilities code that requires transportation infrastructure and programs to be in place to accommodate planned growth before growth begins, oversee growth, and includes adequate mechanisms to stop development if criteria are not adhered to.

Monitor and prioritize the decisions and commitments made. Hold governmental agencies and developers accountable to approved plans and guidelines to maintain a high quality of life for City and County residents. Create a matrix to accurately monitor the current status of selected comprehensive plans and sector studies.

Provide meaningful and accurate information, as well as tools and techniques for community groups to inform their membership about the Coalition’s mission, how it affects their quality of life, and how they can support it.

The Benefits of a Coalition:

An organization prepared and capable of influencing opinion and decision making and lobbying for action by city, county, and state representatives to enable them to prevail in public policy debates.

An organization capable of investing the time to reach out to all diverse communities that call the Annapolis Neck Peninsula their home to inform them of development actions being taken and the impact that it will have on their communities, to understand their vision of community and to assist as needed to voice their concerns.

Greater numbers of voters within more organized community groups providing their professional views and opinions to policy makers based on accurate information.

Greater expertise—legal, technical, etc. to assess issues and help the coalition stay engaged and lobby effectively and win public policy debates.

Stakeholders

- Ward Aldermen/women for the City and County
- City, State and County planners
- State and County Representatives/Senators
- Civic groups and condo, neighborhood and homeowner associations
- Spa and Back Creek Conservancies and the associated Severn and South River Federations
- HACA
- Others as the situation dictates