

GFNCA General Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2016

7:00pm

Highland Elementary School

Minutes

External Presentations:

Montgomery County Department of Transportation Issues

- I. Henderson and Judson 5 way intersection
 - a. The DOT has done a field study of the geometry of the intersection, speeding, traffic counts, etc. Design is proceeding.
 - b. Mike Guiliano discussed how the design for the intersection will work. It will be bean-shaped. This design will enhance safety at this intersection. All work will be done within the County right-of-way. There will be striped crosswalks. The street light currently there will remain the same or will be improved. The center of the intersection will be green space, perhaps a rain garden. The Green Streets team is collaborating on this.
 - c. DOT will look into posting street speed limit signs. All five legs approaching the intersection will have yield signs. It will be a roundabout and will require politeness and attention to the street signs (“yield to traffic in the circle”)
 - d. Completion date is in Spring 2017. Traffic will not be interrupted. Part of the scope of the project requires that traffic flow and bikes and pedestrians be accommodated throughout the work.

- II. Traffic Calming in the neighborhood
 - a. Stella from the Division of Traffic Engineering spoke about speed humps on County maintained roads. She gave information the requirements for a speed hump, the types of speed humps and where they might be located in the neighborhood. Candidates are Weisman Road and Lindell Street. There must be 500’ between humps. The stretch of Lindell between Livingston and Randolph qualifies for 3 speed humps based on the distance. The stretch between Grandview and Judson on Weisman also qualifies for speed humps. Additional studies are required to proceed.
 - b. Question: What are other options besides speed humps? Curb extensions and islands.
 - c. There was a traffic survey done by Montgomery Housing Partnership. Residents questioned where that information was and said that the county should not have to do its own studies as this survey had already been done. Despite requesting their attendance, representatives from the County did not participate in the meeting to address the survey.

- III. Police Report
 - a. District 4 Lt. Augutine attended the meeting and was very well received. He discussed a variety of issues including some specific recent crimes.
 - i. There was a homicide on Arcola Avenue. It was not random and was a targeted act. <http://www.mymcmedia.org/police-investigate-suspicious-death-of-72-year-old-woman-in-wheaton-as-a-homicide/>
 - ii. There was an incident at the five way intersection of Judson and Henderson on July 4. The victim was injured and found in the street by a passer-by. There has been no arrest in this case, although the police have some leads. They cannot discuss the case because the investigation is active, but officer sought to reassure the meeting that the police had the case well in hand and would provide further information when it was appropriate. https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/man-in-critical-condition-after-assault-in-wheaton/2016/07/05/2ca337e6-42fb-11e6-88d0-6adde48be8bc_story.html
 - iii. Parking concerns: The police collected 100 orange cones from the neighboring area of Connecticut Avenue Estate that people had put out to reserve street parking spots. It is illegal to “save” your parking space by marking it off with orange cones. The police have done a survey of illegal parking and have handed out warnings. They will do this for a while then give tickets. Residents believe that ticketing people for breaking the law does not need to be justified.

- IV. Maryland State Highway Administration Representative
 - a. Requests for changes to Maryland administered roads (roads with state numbers (e.g., 97 (Georgia Avenue), 486 (Viers Mill Road), 650 (New Hampshire Avenue)) – you can write in or call in. There is also an online system. http://marylandsha.force.com/customer/relationship/request_for_service
 - b. When a request has been made, then there are traffic counts, investigation of crashes, observations. There is a 60-90 turnaround for observations.

- c. There is a list of items that the Department is looking at.
- d. There was a question from the attendees about creating dedicated left turn lanes from northbound Georgia Avenue into the neighborhood. However, this would be very difficult because the road is not wide enough and the median does not have enough space to make a turn lane. Additional studies will be conducted by the Maryland SHA within 90 days.
- e. Mowing of State roadway is done four times per season due to budgetary constraints
- f. Department will look at plantings (trees) in the median of Georgia Avenue between Henderson and Randolph, if warranted.
- g. Request for more crosswalks with a signal on Georgia Avenue. Signals are not warranted because of the relatively low number of pedestrians.
- h. Request for "No Through Traffic" signs – needs to be addressed by County.
- i. Request for a light at Randolph and Lindell – needs to be addressed by County.

GFNCA Internal Business

- I. Elections
 - a. Community Affairs liaison position approved.
 - b. President: MJ Jordanah
 - c. Vice President: Mike Friedman
 - d. Treasurer: Carrie Hall
 - e. Community Affairs: Sara Cabrera
 - f. At Large Member: Jim Epstein
 - g. Secretary: Colleen Zarzecki
- II. Community Directories were distributed throughout the neighborhood with the help of many volunteers. Montgomery Housing Partnership printed the Directories. Many thanks to them.
- III. We are looking to buy an overhead projector and translation devices and are looking for money to pay for that.
- IV. Sidewalks have been constructed throughout the neighborhood. We have also requested a sidewalk on Henderson between Randolph and Grandview.
- V. Members are urged to join/rejoin ... only \$10 per household! Contact us at info@gnfca.org.

Respectfully submitted by
Colleen Zarzecki, Secretary