

Glenmont Exchange, Inc.
GlenmontExchange.com

Minutes of the October 22, 2018 meeting

Attendees: Josh Goodman, Ian Rothman, Michael Gelman, Ben Joyner, Stu Carlow, Dorinda Danneman, Rich Burnes, Walker Freer, Katie Beard, Casey Anderson, Craig Wilson, David Stonehill, Arquilla Ridgell, John and Niki Straub, Beth Shapiro.

The Minutes were approved. The Treasurers Report was approved. Cash on hand at the end of October was \$1224.00.

Officer Katie Beard, Montgomery County Police, provided Josh with 50 pages of crime listings from 20906; he printed a few for us. Officer Beard discussed the Top 15 types of crime occurring in the past 6 months.

#1 – Marijuana. Now a civil offense with a \$50 citation. Higher fines for repeat offenders. They are no longer executing search warrants unless for a large quantity or growing.

#2 – DUI. Traffic offenses.

#3 – 2nd degree assault. Usually domestic or siblings. Unwanted touching.

#4 – Mental illness. Calls are on the rise, large number of calls for service. If subject says they want to hurt themselves, they are taken for evaluation.

#5 – Alcohol offenses. Drunk in public.

#6 – Larceny from auto. Frequently from unlocked vehicles.

#7 – Vandalism of property. Graffiti, rocks thrown thru windows.

#8 – Shoplifting.

#9 – Forgery/ID Theft. Includes calls, spoofed numbers, calls from overseas. Complain to FTC.gov.

#10 – Larceny, other. Anything but property, building, auto.

#11 – Larceny, property.

#12 – Larceny, farm building.

#13 – Larceny, auto part.

#14 – Juvenile offense – Runaway.

#15 – Robbery.

What to tell seniors about the Grandma scam: Think about what the caller is saying. When did you last see the person they are calling about? You would probably know if a loved one had plans to travel.

To report a crime, call the non-emergency number: 301-279-8000; or call 911 in an emergency.

Taser International personal tasers – some models have a replacement feature if lost during use.

Truancy – There is a Truancy board. Truants are reported by schools to police. Kristie Palmer is the School Resource Officer for Kennedy High School.

MS13 – There are plans to have two gang units; one for Intel, one to work the streets. Langley Park is the local hub, Northern Virginia is the hub for new arrivals. Members live and work in our communities, they are mostly active away from here.

A new Marijuana dispensary has opened in the Glenmont Shopping Center. Dispensaries are a cash only business, generally open by appointment. Good security is required, including a vault and a safe. A ‘prescription’ from a doctor is required to make purchases. Purchases must be transported a certain way.

There are no laws about transport out of the bag, yet. Ofc. Beard has not heard of any serious problems with other locations.

There is no crime in Leisure World.

Ofc. Katie Beard is active on NextDoor and can be reached by PM; members can request her direct email from Josh if needed.

Casey Anderson, Chair, Park & Planning Commission, spoke about issues affecting Glenmont.

The construction of the interchange at Randolph Road & Georgia Avenue is 95% complete. The “Jug handle” allowing access to the shopping center from the east-bound ramp of Randolph Road is under construction. Final lighting, landscaping, paving and marking were complete by 10/18/18. Completion of the interchange was a pre-condition for additional development.

Now that the interchange is completed, a new study of traffic in the area is needed.

The Council approved the Bicycle Master Plan. The county sees bike infrastructure as they should have built it earlier:

- Slows traffic because of narrower lanes, increases awareness of bikes.

- Takes width out of existing lanes; some right-hand lanes are 15’ wide. Goal is to narrow lanes to 10’ to 11’ wide.

- In Silver Spring, some bike lanes are on the curb side of the parking lane.

The County is behind Vision Zero, to eliminate traffic fatalities and injuries. Viers Mill Road corridor is the first project to examine a corridor from the pedestrian and bicycle viewpoint. Not really about real estate development, mainly to add connectors for bikes and pedestrians. Aspen Hill will get the same treatment.

In Wheaton, the Park & Planning Building is expected to open 2019; move-in 2020. Will increase customers for area restaurants during the day. Parking in the building will be discouraged or unavailable for employees; they can pay to park. They will be able to cash out their parking benefit. There will be county government shuttles for department staff; Van Pools from Frederick and Shady Grove. Montgomery County owns the parking garage; paid parking will be available to the public.

Northwest Branch Trail – has 7 miles of expanded access, Randolph Road to ICC, will eventually reach to the Trolley Museum. South of Rt. 29, the trail is rocky; they plan to build another trail higher on the hill that is smoother. There is a connector trail in Poplar Run, at the end of Poplar Run Drive, down to the bridge over Northwest Branch. They plan to re-route trails that run thru boggy areas.

Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan update is still on hold due to budget considerations. There is still time to share your opinions. The Carousel is still moving to Clarksburg, to Ovid Hazen Wells park. Placement of the Carousel in Clarksburg was a condition of its being gifted to the park.

Wheaton-Claridge local park renovation is complete. It is off Veirs Mill Road. 26 parking places, playground. Stormwater management and stream buffer enhancement. Upgraded to draw legitimate traffic.

Kemp Mill Urban Park has been completed. It has a huge slide with a rope webbing ladder.

They are moving from total reconstruction of a park to renovation of certain features, so more parks can get renovated. Redevelopment criteria include usage and age of facility.

They are looking for a park acquisition in Wheaton, near the AVA Wheaton apartments.

Mr. Anderson is unsure of the plans for the open area next to the Fire Department.

Secretary's note: In follow up, the area will remain property of Montgomery County. The Department of General Services has limited funds left in the Glenmont Fire Station project, so development of this area remains an open item. DGS has made some presentations to local community groups about the proposed Glenmont Forest Local Park.

Mr. Anderson said at the beginning of the year that he would visit all 421 parks during the year. He has visited 329 so far.

There is a building moratorium in Silver Spring because of school crowding. The Council will probably fund increased school capacity in the next few months. Casey would rather not have development be driven by where school capacity is available.

On Layhill Road, between Georgia Avenue and Glenallan, pedestrians cross between the intersections. Contact State Highway Administration. Identify trouble spots and contact Casey Anderson and Montgomery County Department of Transportation. MC DOT has money for spot improvements. Can a fence be installed, or the bus stops moved from the center of the block? The "hot right" from Georgia Avenue onto Layhill Road continues to be a problem for pedestrians.

Craig Wilson, Councilwoman Navarro's office said there will be a meeting on Nov. 12 between the Council, MCPS, SHA and MCDOT about pedestrian issues, after the recent accident in Aspen Hill where several students were struck. Contact Craig Wilson, craig.wilson@montgomerycountymd.gov with comments on transportation issues. He sends a request to SHA and gets a ticket. SHA completes a study and provides results. Warrant Study – does the request 'warrant' correction; how much traffic, density, etc.

Glenmont MetroCentre – the second townhouse project is under construction. Buchanan is buying out the owner of Privacy World apartments, who wanted to sell. They will be renovating and renting the apartments. They want to be able to have flexibility in timing the future sections of the development.

There will be a Wegmans in Twinbrook in 2022.

The next Glenmont Exchange Meeting will be Monday, November 26, 2018 at 7:30 pm in the Poplar Run Clubhouse, 13500 Stargazer Place, Silver Spring, MD 20906

Minutes submitted by Dorinda Danneman, Secretary.