



P.O. Box 786
Severna Park, MD 21146

GREATER SEVERNA PARK COUNCIL Meeting Minutes January 8, 2013



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The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by President Steve Poland. Other Board members present included Brad Myers, John Norville, newly elected President Maureen Carr-York, and Kathy Michels.

President Poland welcomed and thanked delegates for attending including new delegate Paul Furton representing Cypress Landing, and thanked County Councilman Dick Ladd for attending.

Mr. Poland advised attendees that Director John Norville, Chairman of the GSPC Nominations Committee, will present the Final Election Results for the 2013 GSPC Board of Directors, and welcomed Anne Arundel Department of Health guest speakers Kristin Blomendahl, Health Educator, Community Education and Health Disparities Program, and Brandon Johnson, Community Engagement Coordinator, who will discuss learning to live healthy with a focus on improving the health of residents.

Secretary's Minutes – December 11, 2012: Mr. Poland asked whether the delegates present had any comments or changes to the Minutes. No comments were made and a motion to approve the minutes was seconded, and the Minutes were unanimously approved as submitted and filed for the record.

Adoption of Treasurer's Reports: Mr. Poland presented the following account activity in December:

- *Account Balance as of December 31, 2012:* (1) no new dues were received last month, (2) two checks issued to Office Depot cleared for a total of \$20.82, (3) Smith Barney money market report balance of \$878.15 remains unchanged pending receipt of year-end statement, (4) BB&T checking account balance is \$6,729.63, and (5) Smith Barney CDs (5) remain at \$25,000.

- *Membership Update:* 53 communities remain in "good standing" with five communities remaining ineligible to vote in 2013 since dues were not paid in 2012 including: Evergreen, Fair Oaks, Jennings Road, Sheffield Park, and Williams Woods.

- *Payment of Dues:* In response to a question, Mr. Poland noted that the 2013 dues are due in January, and he will email the 2013 dues bill to all GSPC community representatives by the end of the week. He also noted that if there have been changes to a community's representative to please email the name and contact information to him at poland_steve@hotmail.com so he can send the bill to the appropriate community representative.

The Treasurer's Report and Membership Update for December 31, 2012 are attached. The motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports, as submitted, was unanimously approved, and filed for the record for audit purposes.

Electronic Voting for 2013 GSPC Board of Directors – President Steve Poland: Mr. Poland advised that good results were received from the electronic voting and is confirmed as follows:

- 43 electronic votes were received out of the 53 communities eligible to vote
- Voting results were 42 yes and 1 no vote with no offer of an alternative candidate

With no offer of an alternative, Mr. Poland asked if there were any representatives from the following ten communities who did not submit an electronic vote and wanted to vote:

1. Belleview Estates
2. Bendale
3. [Berrywood South](#) –Cast yes vote during meeting*
4. Chartridge
5. Harlequin
6. Magothy Forest
7. North Severna Park
8. Point Field Landing
9. Shipley's Retreat Homeowners
10. Whitney's Landing

Electronic Voting for 2013 GSPC Board of Directors - Continued:

Mr. Poland advised that the final tally is confirmed with 43 yes votes and 1 no vote, and 9 communities did not vote. With this confirmation, Mr. Poland introduced newly elected President Maureen Carr York, handed her the gavel and thanked her for her commitment to run for office and join the GSPC as the new President for 2013.

- Recognition and Special Thanks to Board Members - John Norville, Nominating Committee Chair:

Mr. Norville noted that the last official act of the Nominating Committee is to recognize the approved 2013 Board of Directors. He thanked Mr. Poland for taking on the position of President and continuing to serve as the Treasurer in 2012, and for his commitment to continue as Treasurer in 2013.

He also gave a special thanks to Maureen Carr-York for agreeing to become President, and thanked the Committee Chairs who give special reports, and also thanked Councilman Ladd for his continuing support and keeping everyone up to date.

Director Norville also noted that he wanted to give a special thanks to the retiring member of the nominating committee Charlie Miller who has served loyally and also serves as the Sergeant of Arms. Mr. Miller will be retiring and will be greatly missed for his outstanding services. He advised delegates that we will have to find another volunteer who will be willing to serve as the Sergeant of Arms upon Charlie Miller's retirement.

He gave a special thanks to delegates for their attendance and willingness to vote, and advised with the final confirmation of the votes tonight the 2013 election is completed and the 2013 Board Members are approved as follows:

- 2013 Approved Board Members

President: Maureen Carr York
Vice-President: *Brad Myers [Also serves as Education Committee Chairman]
Vice-President Public Affairs: *Roy Higgs [Serves as Zoning Committee Chairman]
Secretary: * Kathleen J. Michels
Treasurer: * Steve Poland [Past President]
Director Emeritus: * Dan Nataf [Serves as Public Works Committee Chairman]
Director: *John Norville [Serves as Nominating Committee Chairman]
Director: *Ann Jackson (Serves as Environmental Committee Chairman)
Director: --vacant--
*Incumbent to Board

President Carr-York thanked Mr. Poland for his willingness to step up in mid-year and take on the responsibility of President upon Jerry Pesterfield's resignation in mid-2012, and for doing such a great job even though he carried a lot of other responsibilities including continuing as Treasurer which was a lot of work, and thanked him for his excellent work and commitment.

Guest Speakers: President Carr-York thanked Dan Nataf for arranging for tonight's speakers from the Anne Arundel County Department of Health and introduced the following speakers:

- Kristin Blomendahl, Health Educator, M.S., Health Education, Community Education and Health Disparities Program, will speak about the County's Learn to Live Healthy program
- Brandon Johnson, M.H.S., Community Engagement Coordinator, will speak about the Healthy Anne Arundel Coalition.

President Carr-York also noted that these are important initiatives of our health department and she is so grateful the speakers are here.

Learn to Live Healthy Program: Kristin Blomendahl noted that the Learn to Live Healthy Program is an Anne Arundel County Department of Health program that focuses on healthy living and is free to every Anne Arundel County resident. The program has on-line services, printed material and it's all about you and your health, and provides a collection of FREE services, health information and materials to help you and your family live a healthier life, and is available on their website at: <http://www.aahealth.org/about/healthyannearundel>.

Learn to Live Healthy Program- Continued:

Current Health Statistics: Current health statistics of Anne Arundel County and the nation at large:

▪ **Obesity**

- 1 out of 3 children is currently overweight or obese and is only going to get worse
- 2 out of 3 adults are overweight or obese
- 21% of annual medical spending is spent on obesity related diseases

Ms. Blomendahl noted that these are definitely problems that they want to address at the Health Department at the County level, and they are working with their community members to see what they can do about it.

▪ **5 Essential Areas that Need Improvement**

- Physical Activity
- Food and Beverages
- Marketing
- Health Care & Workplace
- Schools

Ms. Blomendahl noted that she would challenge the delegates, as representatives of the community groups, to see what they can do at their level to work with individuals to see what they can do to contribute to making health an important part of their message.

▪ **5 Solutions for Changing Our Communities**

- Integrating physical activity for every day in every way by making sure there are walkways and walking paths in your communities
- Activate employers and health care professionals to start a walking club in your organization
- Promote eating well in schools and eating unlimited fruits and vegetables that Anne Arundel County schools promote
- Marketing what matters for a healthy life and helping people go to the farmers market is really important

Ms. Blomendahl advised that on their own, anyone of these five solutions might help speed up progress in preventing obesity, but together their effect would be reinforced, amplified, and maximized. Anyone and everyone can be a leader and play a part in implementing these five solutions.

▪ **Statistics**

- 38.3% of adults are overweight in Anne Arundel County, and 29% are obese.

Ms. Blomendahl explained that when she says overweight and obese it is the BMI (Body Mass Index) of 25 to 29 which is a factor of your height and weight, and 38% of adults are overweight and 29% are obese. This means that 68% of county residents are overweight or obese.

This speaks to the need for health promotion efforts at all levels, walking clubs anywhere we can get them, and all kinds of health promotions. The rates are scary and it is estimated that by 2013 the rate in Maryland may reach 60% in obesity alone.

▪ **Health Smart Program:** This Program is a partnership with the Department of Health and 33 local churches or faith based organizations in Anne Arundel County. They are looking to expand to community organizations as well. The purpose of the Health Smart Program is to provide free health information and educational materials to church and community members for distribution within communities to help reduce their risk of chronic diseases. Information provided includes heart disease prevention, cancer prevention and screening, tobacco use prevention and tobacco cessation, healthy eating, physical activity, and much more.

Ms. Blomendahl noted that she is aware that community organizations have different demographics or may have an email list or newsletter or central location for posting information on a community poster to distribute individually within their community.

Community organizations that are interested in signing up to partner with the Learn To Live Program, should simply call the Learn To Live Line at 410-222-7979 to receive the Health Smart Program Form to fill in and return to the County Department of Health.

Learn to Live Healthy Program- Continued:

▪ **The Weight of the Nation:** The Annapolis Community Health Initiative (ACH) will host a local screening of The Weight of The Nation: Part 3 Children in Crisis, an HBO documentary series addressing the national obesity epidemic. The event will be held this Friday, January 11 in Annapolis and will also feature a “Healthy Dish Challenge” of foods prepared by three local Annapolis-based restaurants.

To learn more about The Weight of The Nation, check out the film trailer: www.hbo.com/theweightofthenation.

Ms. Blomendahl also advised that the folders they distributed to the delegates this evening contain a lot of information about each of the programs and was provided to distribute information to members of their communities. The Learn To Live Program has free resources and information on all sorts of topics and all kinds of free health materials.

For more information, call the Learn To Live Line at 410-222-7979 or see Learn To Live information on [Healthy Eating](#), [Physical Activity for Adults and Children](#), [Cancer Prevention](#), [Tobacco Cessation](#), [Sun Safety](#), and [Raising Healthy Kids](#), which is available on line at http://www.aahealth.org/ltl_5steps.asp

Contact Information for Kristin Blomendahl, MS, Health Educator, Community Education and Health Disparities Program, Department of Health:

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Healthy Anne Arundel Coalition: Brandon J. Johnson, Community Engagement Coordinator, provided the following information:

▪ **Background and Origination of the Coalition:** The Coalition started from the State level and there have been a lot of changes over public health funding. Before, like most other organizations or sections, we used to get money from a larger pot of money, but now that pot is dwindling, so now we are not getting the same amount of money from the Federal government to do the things we used to do to come up with initiatives or public health programs to combat public health issues like obesity, smoking cessation, etc.

As a result, what was developed is called SHIP, State Health Improvement Process, which started at the State level, and what they looked at was data and things that have worked, and all sorts of numbers and trends that have gone on throughout the country, and they have charged local health departments to come up with new and innovative ways to tackle the public health issues that are affecting the Nation. So we have been charged by the State to do more with less money since you are not going to get the amount of money you are used to getting and are not going to have access to the money to create some of the things that they have already had in place.

Bottom line, they have been charged by the local health department to come up with ways to deal with the growing health issues with less money.

▪ **LHIC – Local Health Improvement Coalition:** Essentially what came from the changes to the Coalition funding was the LHIC. A collection of community organizations, hospitals, local health departments, faith based and other organizations coming together to find new and innovative ways to tackle health issues in smaller county’s across all 50 States. In Anne Arundel County it is the Healthy Anne Arundel Coalition.

Mission and Overview of the Anne Arundel Healthy Coalition

- *Mission:* The mission of the Coalition is to locally prioritize the State Health Improvement Process (SHIP’s) objectives and to develop and implement actionable strategies to improve public health. Statistics for Anne Arundel County reflect that improvement is needed in the following areas: Obesity Prevention, Cancer Prevention, Substance Abuse Prevention, Mental Health, Access to Dental Care, Sexual Health, and Housing and the Environment. The Coalition Steering Committee is focusing on two health improvement priorities from 2012 to 2015. They are (1) obesity prevention and (2) the management of substance abuse and mental health as co-occurring disorders.

- *Leaders of the Coalition:* The people who lead the Coalition are the Department of Health and two hospitals: Baltimore-Washington Medical Center and Anne Arundel Medical Center.

They lead the Healthy Anne Arundel Coalition which is composed of a Steering Committee of over 25 members in various sectors of the community, including Parks and Recreation, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, and other various businesses and organizations coming together to tackle issues in Anne Arundel County.

Healthy Anne Arundel Coalition - Continued:

▪ Mission and Overview of the Anne Arundel Healthy Coalition – Continued:

- Major Issues and Data Results – Obesity, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Suicide Rates: One of the first things the Coalition did was look at the data to learn what the major issues plaguing the County are. The top two priorities that came out of the data were (1) obesity, and (2) mental health and substance abuse as co-occurring disorders. Right now in looking at the data two-thirds of Anne Arundel County residents are either overweight or obese. Childhood obesity rate is 12%. These are startling numbers and are higher for similar counties with similar demographics, and are above the State level, and are a real concern for the County. The suicide rate in Anne Arundel County is also above the threshold line of the State across all of the counties. These were the issues that the Coalition wanted to tackle with some new innovative different ways to tackle these things.

- Program Subcommittees: The Coalition is comprised of the Steering Committee and Subcommittees including:

(1) Obesity Prevention Subcommittee: Comprised of local leaders that have worked on obesity prevention, worked in fitness programs, and work at the hospitals that are experts in obesity prevention.

(2) Co-Occurring Subcommittee: Works with and has mental health providers, psychologists and psychiatrists and people who work in the field all coming together from the County to work with issues of mental health and substance abuse as co-occurring disorders.

(3) Community Outreach Subcommittee: Comprised of different community and faith based organizations coming together to do some community work to get communities engaged in the initiatives of the Healthy Anne Arundel Coalition.

(4) Publicity and Promotions Subcommittee: Designed to get the word out to inform people about the initiatives of the Coalition and how to get other people involved.

(5) Leadership and Finance Subcommittee: Comprised of the Health Director and employees from the two hospitals in the area.

▪ **Goals of the Coalition:** The current goal of the Coalition is to work with various community organizations who are already leaders and pioneers in developing programs to combat these issues by:

- Accessing what is currently out in the County. They do not want to reinvent the wheel since there are a lot of small and midsize businesses that are tackling these things. Current examples include:

(1) People doing walking trails

(2) A lot of faith based organizations have weight loss programs and a lot of churches are doing “Biggest Loser” campaigns that have proven to be fairly successful.

(3) Other people are doing educational materials. For instance Boys and Girls Clubs are doing fantastic work in terms of fitness and activity with our youths.

Mr. Johnson noted that what they are doing now is reaching out to the communities to see what is already out there and see what they can tap into to really hit the ground running with other programs or organizations that already have been working with the community members.

- Obesity Prevention Subcommittee: Right now the Obesity Prevention Subcommittee is working on a few tasks to help reduce obesity throughout the County, including the Healthy Eating Policy that is new and something that could be adopted with the organizations. It is a guideline and policy that outlines what is acceptable when you are having a meeting or reception in terms of refreshments, food and drinks that people bring in.

The Subcommittee’s goal is to outline certain foods, fruits and vegetables and things that are healthier for you that will only be served in a meeting session, and is working to help businesses create these policies and change the culture for their organizations.

- Co-Occurring Subcommittee: The group is working with different providers that pick up people that are having mental health issues. A lot of people in the County aren’t being screened properly. There are people with mental disorders that are going right through the system to routine checkups. But there are other issues that they are not being screened for, and the subcommittee is working with the health physicians to uncover these people to ensure they are being screened at the proper place. Right now the Subcommittee is taking more data and coming up with more initiatives and working with different community groups to see what other initiatives they can tap into.

▪ **Closing Remarks: Upcoming Meeting of the Steering Committee and On Line Information:** Mr. Johnson advised delegates that the Coalition’s primary goal is to spread the word and get more people involved, and they have various Subcommittee meetings every other month that are open to the public. You may want to attend to see what they are doing in the County, and there are many ways you can participate and assist the Coalition including becoming a part of a Subcommittee, and providing community assistance.

Healthy Anne Arundel Coalition - Continued:

▪ **Closing Remarks: Upcoming Meeting of the Steering Committee - On Line Information - Continued:** They definitely want to get everyone involved to push this initiative forward and get it off the ground. They have been working behind the scenes for about a year, and, now since they have really gained momentum, they are eager to get into communities to have their name and purpose acknowledged, and get people and communities to contribute and become a part of the initiatives to improve the health of Anne Arundel residents.

The next Steering Committee Meeting is January 23, 3 to 4:30 pm., Center of Town, 2301 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21061. Attendees may RSVP to Steering Committee meetings on line at: <http://www.aahealth.org/about/healthyannearundel/coalition/minutes>

More Coalition information is available on line at <http://www.aahealth.org/about/healthyannearundel>. The website provides a full overview of the Healthy Anne Arundel Coalition purpose and structure; the State Health Improvement Process mission and vision; and includes the Subcommittee meeting calendar, Coalition documents, County Health Data, and other helpful links.

▪ **Contact Information for Brandon J. Johnson, MHS, Community Engagement Coordinator, Anne Arundel County Department of Health:**

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[Brandon J. Johnson, MHS](#)

Questions - Learn to Live Healthy and Healthy Anne Arundel Coalition:

(1) *Nutrition for School Students:* Brad Myers asked what the group is doing regarding nutrition for school students.

Ms. Blomendahl advised that they work directly with the Director of the Student Nutrition Services at the Anne Arundel Public Schools. They have a unique unlimited fruits and vegetables program, and students have access to as many fruits and vegetables they want with no extra charge. Another event they partner with Student Nutrition Services is a tasting-type event. For example, before the holiday break they did milk tasting where they only sampled white milk for students to see if they liked it because there is a lot of chocolate and strawberry milk being selected and purchased. There are some interesting studies that if you don't offer choices and they aren't drinking milk at all you aren't getting calcium. It was a very interesting way to try and expose students to just enjoy the white milk instead of giving them other options.

They are also doing a red tasting event in February along with Heart Health Month. They will provide samples of different vegetables that are red in color to try and expose students to those vegetables.

(2) *Subsistence Abuse and Mental Health:*

- *Availability of resources for the mentally ill and substance abuse problems:* Ms. Carr-York commented that it seems to her that over the last 30 years we have lost a lot of our resources for helping people, and she noted that she is sure that a lot of their efforts are going into trying to replace those resources. Could you share with the group what is available in Anne Arundel County for the mentally ill and people with subsistence abuse problems?

Mr. Johnson noted that there are many different support systems for people with those mental health disorders. Right now there are many different hot lines available that are set up to assist people with issues that are currently going on and also to triage them to the proper places for immediate medical treatment.

What they found is that it wasn't necessarily a shortage of resources; it was an issue of promotion of those resources. People didn't know that there are various things around their neighborhoods that they can go to, and different organizations they can also go to. There is a list on the Healthy Anne Arundel website under "Co-Occurring Disorders."

There also was an issue with getting people the right kind of health since they didn't know where to go or what they were dealing with to get proper treatment. So right now the Co-Occurring Group is working on (1) a directory, and (2) another new system to make sure people are Triage'd to the right place. More information will eventually be on the website.

Questions - Learn to Live Healthy and Healthy Anne Arundel Coalition - Continued:

(2) Subsistence Abuse and Mental Health - Continued:

- Availability of resources for the mentally ill and substance abuse problems - Continued

Ms. Carr-York also noted that she knows people who have these types of problems, and, if they want help and don't know where to go, is it correct to advise them that they can go to the Healthy Anne Arundel website and obtain information? Mr. Johnston stated that is correct, and confirmed that there is information on the Anne Arundel Health website at <http://www.aahealth.org/programs/behav-hlth> that would give them useful information. Although they haven't yet finished the entire comprehensive list; there is information that should be helpful to them on the Healthy Anne Arundel website.

- Inpatient-Detox Facility: Ben Oaks Delegate Anne DeMajistre commented that there are resources for people struggling with addiction and unhealthy behaviors including meetings conducted at churches along Benfield Blvd. by groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Overeaters and Narcotics Anonymous. Ms. Carr-York asked whether she knew the availability of Inpatient Detox facilities since many struggling with substance abuse have to be safely withdrawn in a monitored setting before they can safely benefit from outpatient programs. Ms. DeMajistre noted that she did not, and Ms. Carr-York noted that there is now a shortage of inpatient care due to a change in insurance coverage for inpatient care.

- Reporting Employee Mental Problems: A question was raised regarding a problem that an attendee has seen in the past and in the workplace when you see someone who has a problem, but there may be legal and privacy issues involved if you report it, so how do you flag it to someone else, and does the Health Department have a place to report it to or go to since you don't want to get personally involved or sued? Mr. Johnson noted that he doesn't know whether there is a trouble shooting tool helping or assisting someone with mental illness. But it is definitely something that may be useful to the Co-Occurring Subcommittee. The Subcommittee meets next month and he attends the meetings and will bring this issue up for discussion. He also noted that he thinks it would be a great tool especially for people in Anne Arundel County since about 86% of businesses in the County are small businesses and they need to know what do you do and can you get them help from the County Health Department. This is something he will definitely discuss and present at the next Subcommittee meeting.

Dick Ladd, Councilman – Update of Legislation and Activities: Mr. Ladd provided the following information:

- Critical Area Bill: The bill focuses on the management of future development and redevelopment of existing property, and is being worked on and there are a lot of contingent parts they have to deal with. The Stormwater Management bill and a County retiree and employee health care bill are right behind it.

- Removal of Director of the Health Department: There was a lot of discussion last night about the removal of the Director of the Health Department, it's a personal matter but it is very disturbing to find out what is happening.

- Budget: The budget is coming along, and things on the inbound side of income this year and the projections next year are a little better than in the past, but we are not out of the woods.

- County Executive John Leopold's Trial: Starts on January 16th with the selection of the jury, and prosecutors could begin presenting their case by the end of the week. The trial is estimated to run for 2 to 3 weeks, and by the time we get into February we might have a lot of things to think about and work on.

- Budget Development Responsibility: In response to a question about who will generate the budget, Mr. Ladd stated that John Hammond is the Acting Administrative Officer and actively supporting the Budget Office who will do the budget. It is coming along quite well and what he has been lead to believe is that they have actually asked some of the Department's to give certain budget facts and then give them a list of other things they might want to consider, and he thinks that they are expecting that they have a little more flexibility to pull ahead on the budget than they did in the past. There are a lot of issues they have to resolve on pay, but the budget picture is looking reasonably good at this point, but the next 4 to 6 weeks are going to be very exciting and involved.

Question: President Carr-York asked Mr. Ladd if he knew why the State Secretary of Health requested removal of the Director of the Health Department and has any reason been given. Mr. Ladd advised that because it is a personal matter they cannot talk about it publicly. Each of the Council members has individually talked to the State and has gotten some explanations, but they have not yet discussed among themselves to see whether they are hearing the same thing. It is a matter of great concern and they find themselves in the process really surprised that they are sitting there basically the only people who have to take a vote on the issue of confidence or no confidence of the lady who is doing this job. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the County Executive have looked at it and have lost confidence in the Director, so they have to vote on it.

Dick Ladd, Councilman – Update of Legislation and Activities – Question - Continued:

The Board of Directors for the Health Department is the County Council and that's why the Council is involved. The Director of the Health Department is a State employee, and the State has declared that they have lost confidence in her ability to management and lead the Department of Health, and what the Council members have to do individually is talk to several people who have conducted the investigation.

Public Works Committee – Dan Nataf, Director Emeritus: Mr. Nataf was absent - no report was submitted.

Education Committee – Brad Myers, Director:

- *Board of Education Public Hearings on Capital Budget Funding:* Mr. Myers noted that the Board of Education (BOE) is having their public hearing on their budget process tonight and is their first meeting. There will also be a meeting Thursday night from 7 to 9 pm at the Annapolis BOE building. Some people will be speaking in support of the Capital projects in our area. As it stands right now, the current Capital Budget that is planned to go forward for final approval does include funding for Severna Park High School construction and Benfield Elementary renovation, and it's unusual for the Board to change the current budget that they have moved forward. President Carr-York commented that on the Capital side it basically rubber stamps what they did in the fall. Mr. Myers noted that in the years he has been following the funding he has never seen them change the budget since they have already approved it and it's been put forward again, and typically they don't go back and change it. The State put forward their budget numbers yesterday and he thought it was interesting because he was reading an article about all this money that was going forward and then he read another article that said it was \$60 million less than they put forward last year. It's not really an increase but there are certain projects in our County that have been earmarked for State funding already but it's about \$18 million worth, and count down for \$68 million worth of funding there is still another \$50 million as we move forward that includes construction.

- *Redoing the Master Construction Plan:* Councilman Ladd asked whether he has heard any discussion about redoing the Master Construction Plan and are they going to revisit it. Mr. Myers noted that he has not heard anything about that and Mr. Ladd may have more insight than he has, and although he has not heard anything directly about the Master Construction Plan, he thinks it might be a behind the scenes discussion before they bring it forward.

Mr. Ladd advised that he has heard that they are looking because of the growth they have seen elsewhere in the County. They may go back and revisit it but the good news is that once you are in the design phase like Benfield they won't come back and change where you sit in the plan, and that's what he has been told.

Mr. Myers noted that as the budget moves forward to the Council, one of the concerns that he has raised is the fact that their current Capital Budget for the next year includes four more feasibility studies for new projects, and we have projects like Benfield that have gone through complete design and they may or may not get funded this year and will be two years out from their design. He was told specifically by the architect that the shelf life on these projects is no more than 2-years and, if it had been done 2-years before, they would have to start all over again. It is one of the concerns that he has because it is good to set these projects up but it also is difficult when they keep funding these set ups and then they don't tackle the projects.

- *School Start Times:* President Carr-York asked whether Mr. Myers had any update on the start time issue and Mr. Myers responded that there is a coalition that actually started in the County to start schools later and they are pushing on a national basis to try and get schools to start no earlier than 8:00 am. Currently our high schools start at 7:17 am which puts kids on buses at 6:15-6:30 am. This is something that groups of people have been advocating in the County for an extended period of time to try and get the schools to approve a later start time. The Board of Education, after many years of fighting, took up the issue about 5-years ago and voted down any options to start schools later.

The argument is typically that the additional funding for additional busing, which is why the school assigned times to begin with, was that you can save money on buses and don't have to have as many buses on the road at the same time. That is one side of the argument and there are a lot of components to it that include people not wanting to get out late, people concerned about child-care for smaller children, whether sports are impacted because they will have to start later, but all of these are countered on the other side with health concerns and the fact that a large majority of schools don't start any later than 8:00 am.

Education Committee - *School Start Times – Continued*: That is the way back and forth and the battle has spun up again in both Montgomery and Anne Arundel Counties. There was a petition that was put out that reached about 2,500 signatures, and in our County BOE Superintendent Maxwell has made it very clear to him specifically that he does not consider this as a priority, and has said specifically that he feels there is research on both sides of the spectrum that really doesn't matter regarding starting schools and health issues.

It is a difficult issue and has people supporting both sides of the issue. There was a proposal the last time to move the school start time 14 minutes later from 7:17 to 7:31am which was not going to cost anymore money, but that was also voted down. There was a coalition in Annapolis that pushed very hard for it and it is an ongoing issue.

If you are interested in participating there are several groups involved including the School Start Later Group at <http://www.startschoollater.net/> and Parents Advocacy Network which is another group that advocates for a lot of school type issues.

- *Walking Distance Requirement*: In response to a question whether a walking distance requirement exists, Mr. Meyers stated that it is a mile for elementary and middle school, but he doesn't know whether high school is a mile and a half. President Carr-York advised that middle school is a mile and a half, kindergarten is half a mile and grades 1 through 5 is a mile, and high school is still a mile and a half.

- *Lack of Sidewalks in the County*: President Carr-York commented that the biggest problem generally in the County is that we have so many roads that don't have sidewalks and don't have enough of a shoulder to walk on. In her neighborhood the children are bused because on Jumper's Hole Road there is absolutely no place to walk. There are so many places like that around the County where children are bused who actually live less distance than that.

Mr. Ladd commented, in response to a question regarding sidewalks installed by the State, that there is a provision for the State to install some sidewalks but very little money is available, and sidewalks are installed as communities are developed. Sidewalks you see going in today along Route 2 and on State Highways are from State funding. There are provisions in the Board of Education budget for some sidewalks directly around portals to schools but there is very little money for that from all he can see. There is a lot of traffic around the Severna Park schools and there is money available to do sidewalks for wheel chairs.

Mr. Ladd also noted that there are traffic studies around the Severna Park Area such as Evergreen Rd. and where to put stop lights, for example. So there are a lot of problems being looked at.

Schools will adopt their budget in the middle of January, and public hearings for adoption will be held January 8 and 10 at Olde Mill High School. The biggest items on that budget for our area right now are Capital Projects for the High School and Benfield Elementary. If it is funded there will be no construction activity until January-February 2014.

Environmental Committee Report: Director Ann Jackson was absent - no report was submitted.

Police-Community Relations Report: Julie Krause, Committee member, advised that the only business she had to report is that the Police Awards Ceremony was held on December 19th.

Greater Severna Park Chamber of Commerce: Representative was not present - no report was submitted.

GSPC Zoning/Legislation Agenda and Actions: Roy Higgs, Public Affairs Vice President, was absent and no report was submitted. Steve Poland advised that he did have a request from Cattail Passage asking whether there is anything that can be done about a mobile sign that is not mobile on Ritchie Highway. Mr. Chris Feeney from the community explained that he has been approached by members of the community to ask if there is anything they can do that is appropriate whether legal or not about the truck that is parked in Rey's Crab Shack parking lot that has been there for a month or more. Mr. Ladd noted that the signs along that road are State jurisdiction not the County and he will check out the issue for Cattail Passage and the two other communities who are having similar problems with trucks and cars parked in inappropriate locations around their communities.

- *Pending Legislation*: President Carr-York noted that she was going to try and give Roy Higgs a hand and try to follow some of the legislation activity. She has the County Council Bills for hearings and consideration at the next meetings to be held on January 22nd, February 4th and 19th at 7:00 pm at the Arundel Center which is all County business, and they will try to get summaries of the bills being filed with the legislature that are of particular interest and will pass along from our elected representatives when things are up of particular interest to our communities and the GSPC. The January and February schedule is included on pages 14 through 16.

GSPC Zoning/Legislation Agenda and Actions - Continued: Ms. Carr-York asked Mr. Ladd if he wanted to discuss anything related to the Bills, and he provided the following information:

- *Stormwater Fee Bill and Cleaning up the Bay:* Councilman Ladd noted that one thing that is coming up is the stormwater fee bill that has just been drafted and will be down next week. He thought we would see a fee of about \$120 a year for about a half an acre lot, but that fee will come in at about \$80 not \$120. That means a small lot will be billed \$80 and \$160 for people that live on an acre plus.

That change was because we went back and went through a much more sophisticated rate model, and that will be in for vote very soon. Funding will be sufficient at the front end to do what they call the MS4 compliance for cleaning up the bay. There will then be subsequent phases of construction to allow cleaning up the bay by 2025, the State level dictated schedule. The first project should be in the 2014 budget. The fee will continue past 2045 to pay off the construction bonds. He also noted that if anyone has concerns about it to please call him since they have been working very hard on it.

- *Tax Increases:* President Carr-York noted that in her area they recently received new tax assessments and asked if anyone has received theirs. Her tax assessment went up and her daughter's went down so we are curious about what the net affect will be with the rate increase.

Mr. Ladd noted that there are two things about it; one is your assessment less your homestead tax credit. So your assessments may go up, but the taxes you pay based upon your taxable residence which is your tax bill less the homestead credit. So the tax bill you see will increase at the rate of inflation or 2% of the rate of inflation whichever is lesser, and he suspects it will be about 2% notwithstanding that your tax bill may have gone up. Your assessed value is probably a lot higher than what you are being taxed on because you file the homestead exemption.

Ms. Carr-York noted that she was amazed because she doesn't think values have gone up but her assessed value went up. But her daughter's little town house at Annapolis went down, and her assessed value is now half of what she paid, and she is trying to figure out what is going to happen.

Mr. Ladd noted that his assessment went down substantially but it is still above what he pays his taxes on because he has homestead tax exemption, and they have not been substantially affected by the erosion of our taxable base. The assessed values are down but that is why the most stable thing in our revenue stream has been the real estate taxes. In parts of the city of Annapolis the tax base has come down a fair amount.

Ms. Carr-York asked what will happen to them, will they actually wind up with a lower tax base, since we are talking about young people and all they have seen is a drop in their town homes. Mr. Ladd noted that if their town homes are down and they just bought it recently and even if they had the homeowners it probably didn't protect them during the upside so their taxable base may have gone down and lower their taxes although we have not seen a lot of that. With respect on the revenue side of the tax we have a revenue cap on our tax bill and can allow the taxes to go up by 2% and the tax will go up.

- *Increases in Water Bills:* Mr. Ladd noted that some of your people may have complained about increases in water bills. The water bills are based on an average consumption of 30,000 gallons per quarter and if you exceed that you pay an excess rate on it and then there is a surcharge added to it. They have looked at a number of these things and you can see a pattern. Last year there was a large increase in consumption during the months of July, August, and September because it was very dry and people were watering their lawns. So fees went up and you not only had to pay the penalty on the actual consumption, but it was the first year that the surcharge kicked in so there was an extra surcharge. They are looking at that and one of the things they are looking at is the average consumption really 30,000 gallons. The auditor is looking at it, and the only thing he can say if you have a pool, it is almost cheaper to have someone come in haul the water in for you and it may take 24 to 25,000 gallons.

- *Question Regarding Mass Transportation:* Delegate Lisa Benden, Carrollton Manor, raised a question about the mass transit study and how you raise issues that you believe need to be addressed. President Carr-York provided an update, including the fact that she has been asked to serve on the continued development of the Transportation Functional Master Plan, and advised that it is important for concerned citizens to voice their concerns. You can send an email to the attention of Larry Tom, Director of Planning and Zoning, or send it to her and she can forward to Mr. Tom stating that we have some concerned Citizens.

She also advised that John Norville is a member of the Planning and advisory Board and has a great deal of input into this.

New Business: No report.

Old/Unfinished Business: No report.

Next GSPC Meeting Dates:

- Board of Directors Meeting: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 – 7:30 pm – Severna Park Library
- General Meeting: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 - 7:30 pm – Severna Park Library

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Very Respectfully Submitted:



Kathleen J. Michels, GSPC Secretary – January 18, 2013

GSPC General Meeting
January 8, 2013

Treasurer's Report

Account balances (as of 12/31/2012)

BB&T checking	= \$ 6,729.63	
SmithBarney money market	= \$ 878.15	(pending receipt of statement)
SmithBarney CDs (5)	= \$ 25,000.00	

Beautification Trust Fund
(closed 10/2011)

Account activity in December

BB&T

Dues Deposited	= \$ 0.00	
Checks cleared		
--2196	= \$ (3.82)	
--2197	= \$ (17.00)	
Service charge	= \$ (2.00)	

SmithBarney

Money Market	= \$ 0.00	(pending receipt of statement)
Interest	= \$ 0.00	
CDs		
--matured	= \$ 0.00	
--purchased	= \$ 0.00	

BankAnnapolis (Beautification Fund)
(closed 10/2011)

GREATER SEVERNA PARK COUNCIL

Membership UPDATE

January 8, 2013

Greater Severna Park Council communities and their membership status.

53 Communities “in Good Standing”

Paid 2012 dues (53)

Arnold Preservation Council, Belleview Estates, Ben Oaks, Bendale, Berrywood, Berrywood South, Bluff Point, Brittingham, Cape Arthur, Carrollton Manor, Cattail Passage, Chartridge, Chartwell, Chartwood, Colchester, County Crusaders, Crain West, Cypress Improvement, Cypress Landing, Fairwinds, Glen Oban, Harlequin, Hollywood, Kensington, Kilmarnock, Lakeland II, Lake Waterford, Linstead, Lower Magothy, Magothy Forest, Manhattan Beach, North Cape Arthur, North Severna Park, Oakleigh Forest, Olde Severna Park, Point Field Landing, Pointfield West, Round Bay, Severna Enclave, Severna Forest, Severndale, Shipley's Choice Community, Shipley's Choice Homeowners, Shipley's Retreat Homeowners, Swann Point, Tam Glade, Twin Harbors, West Severna Park, Westridge, Whitehurst, Whitney's Landing, Woodberry Farms, Woodbridge Forest.

Communities *not eligible to vote* in 2013

Did Not Pay 2012 dues (5)

Evergreen, Fair Oaks, Jennings Road, Sheffield Park, Williams Woods.

Former member Communities

Arundel Plaza, Berrywood Ridge, East Earleigh Heights, Jones CA, McKinsey Park, McKinsey Woods. Severn Heights.

COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICE
January 8, 2013

The Chairman has scheduled the following meetings and public hearings on legislation pending before the Council.

The following public hearings will be held:

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2013 – 7 P.M. – ARUNDEL CENTER – LEGISLATIVE DAY NO. 2
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

Previously
Distributed

BILL NO. 93-12 (Hearing Concluded) (Eligible for Vote) – An Ordinance concerning: Subdivision and Development – Zoning – Critical Area – For the purpose of amending, removing, and defining certain terms; incorporating recent changes in the State critical area law; providing for administration and enforcement of the County critical area program; increasing certain civil fines; adding a certain prerequisite for the Board of Appeals to grant a variance and providing for a 30 day deadline for certain appeals; providing for the grandfathering of certain provisions; adjusting and clarifying certain COMAR references; etc.
by Mr. Fink, Chairman
(by request of the County Executive)
and by Mr. Trumbauer

Previously
Distributed

BILL NO. 97-12 – An Ordinance concerning: Real Property Taxes – Tax Sales – For the purpose of extending a certain time frame during which the annual tax sale may occur.
by Mr. Walker, Chairman
(by request of the County Executive)

Previously
Distributed

BILL NO. 98-12 – An Ordinance concerning: Pension – General Provisions – For the purpose of amending the definition of “final average basic pay” and generally relating to pensions.
by Mr. Benoit

Previously
Distributed

RESOLUTION NO. 84-12 – Resolution approving and expressing support for Arundel Community Development Services, Inc.’s application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (“DHCD”) for a grant under the Neighborhood Conservation Initiative.
by Mr. Walker, Chairman
(by request of the County Executive)
and Mr. Smith

RESOLUTION NO. 5-13 (Public Hearing Continued) – Resolution concurring in the removal of the Anne Arundel County Health Officer.
by Mr. Walker, Chairman
(by request of the County Executive)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2013 – 7 P.M. – ARUNDEL CENTER – LEGISLATIVE DAY NO. 3
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

BILL NO. 1-13 – An Ordinance concerning: Pensions – Vesting – For the purpose of increasing from five to ten years the amount of credited served required for certain participants in the Employees’ Retirement Plan hired on or after January 1, 2013 and for certain participants in the Detention Officers’ and Deputy Sheriffs’ Retirement Plan hired on or after January 1, 2013 to vest in pension benefits and to purchase credited service; providing for the retroactive application of this Ordinance; and generally relating to the Employees’ Retirement Plan and Detention Officers’ and Deputy Sheriffs’ Retirement Plan.
by Mr. Grasso and Mr. Fink

Previously
Distributed

RESOLUTION NO. 83-12 – Resolution approving the application to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration for a grant under the Oral Disease and Injury Prevention grant program and recognizing the County Executive’s authority to act in connection with the grant.
by Mr. Fink, Chairman
(by request of the County Executive)

RESOLUTION NO. 1-13 – Resolution approving the application to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration for a grant under the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening with Prevention and Public Health Funds grant program and recognizing the County Executive’s authority to act in connection with the grant.
by Mr. Walker, Chairman
(by request of the County Executive)

RESOLUTION NO. 2-13 – Resolution approving the application to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Preparedness and Response for a grant under the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant program and recognizing the County Executive’s authority to act in connection with the grant.
by Mr. Walker, Chairman
(by request of the County Executive)

RESOLUTION NO. 3-13 – Resolution approving alternative financing methods to fund the design, construction, furnishings and equipment for a twelve classroom addition at Meade High School.
by Mr. Walker, Chairman
(by request of the County Executive)

RESOLUTION NO. 4-13 – Resolution approving alternative financing methods to fund the design, construction, furnishings and equipment for a ten classroom addition at Maryland City Elementary School.
by Mr. Walker, Chairman
(by request of the County Executive)

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2013 – 7 P.M. – ARUNDEL CENTER – LEGISLATIVE DAY NO. 4
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS
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PLEASE NOTE: Speakers are customarily limited to no more than two minutes of testimony. Written testimony of any length is welcome; **please provide 10 copies.** Unless otherwise noted, sign-ups begin at 6:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Arundel Center.

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FAX transmittals – 410-222-1755: Please forward ONE COPY ONLY. Copies will be made and distributed to all Councilmembers.

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Persons requiring special accommodations for a County Council meeting may contact the Council office at 410-222-1401 at least five business days before the meeting. We are now part of the Maryland Relay Service (MRS); 1-800-735-2258—TT/VOICE 410-111-1401.

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TELEVISED COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS

All County Council meetings are televised live beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month (holiday exceptions) and replayed on the following Monday on the channels listed below.

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ALL COUNCIL LEGISLATION AVAILABLE:

- for review on the County’s web site: www.aacounty.org;
(updates take 2-3 days following Council meetings)
- for review at all Anne Arundel County Libraries; and
- by calling the County Council office - 410-222-1401
- by tuning in to the following cable channel bulletin boards for a listing of legislation to be heard on January 22, 2013:

Comcast – Annapolis	Channel 98	Council meetings also televised on this channel
Comcast – County	Channel 98	Council meetings also televised on this channel
Broadstripe	Channel 98	Council meetings also televised on this channel
Verizon	Channel 38	Council meetings also televised on this channel

NO WORK SESSION SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 2013