

*Citizens Committee for the Enhancement of Communities Surrounding
Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport*

**Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2020**

Attending

Dana Carrington
Marjorie Deschenes
Howard Johnson
Rodney Jones
Ron Looper
Kevin Plessner
Gary Simmons
Mary DesChamps
Adrienne Trout
Bruce Rineer
Michelle Christoffers
Darline Terrell-Tyson
Brittany Janowski
Karen Harrell
Royce Bassarab

Representing

Timber Ridge HOA
Provinces Civic Association
Greater Elkridge Community Association
Severn Improvement Association
Elmhurst Improvement Association
Linthicum-Shipley Improvement Association
Glen Burnie

MDOT MAA, Office of Corporate and Community Relations
MDOT MAA, Office of Environmental Services, Noise Section
MDOT, Office of the Attorney General
MDOT MAA, Office of Environmental Services
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MDOT MAA, Office of Environmental Services, Noise Section
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Absent

Ben Olson
Charles Kiessling
Barbara Morgan

Greater Ferndale Community Civic Association
Glen Burnie Improvement Association
Glen Burnie

Discussion

1. Chairperson Ron Looper called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
2. Chairperson Looper asked the committee to review the December 11, 2019 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Kevin Plessner and seconded by Marjorie Deschenes to accept the December 11, 2019 meeting minutes. The vote was 8-0 to accept the meeting minutes.
3. Michelle Christoffers stated that due to an inconsistency in the FY20 budget summary report, the budget should be reevaluated by staff and presented at next meeting. However, there appears to be enough money in the budget to move forward with the applications presented for tonight's meeting.
4. **Grant Application 20-18 (Foxchase Townhomes Association)** was introduced for discussion. The application included the regrading of property to allow for the proper drainage of rainwater. The proposed project would improve drainage issues on private property. The committee discussed that this project appears to benefit individual property owners and does not impact livability within the community. The committee also discussed whether this application met the requirement that the project be

transportation related and concluded that it does not fit eligibility criteria. Mr. Plessner made a motion to deny recommending the application, Ms. Deschenes seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote (8-0) this application was denied for recommendation.

5. **Grant Application 20-19 (Olde Mill Condominium, Inc.)** was introduced for discussion. The application is for the replacement of a sidewalk on the left side of Millshire Drive, between 536 and 538 Millshire Drive. Howard Johnson made a motion to consider the application, which was seconded by Dana Carrington. Ms. Deschenes visited the site and confirmed that repair is warranted. Rodney Jones made a motion to recommend the grant for approval for the lower amount. Ms. Deschenes seconded the motion. By a vote of 7-1, this application was approved for recommendation.
6. **Grant Application 20-20 (Olde Mill Condominium, Inc.)** was introduced for discussion. The application is for the replacement of existing sidewalks from 538-552 Millshire Drive. Ms. Carrington made a motion to consider the application, seconded by Mary DesChamps. Ms. Deschenes visited the site and confirmed that repair is warranted. Chairperson Looper stated that the pictures included in the grant application capture the need well. Mr. Johnson also visited the site and noted lots of spalling. Previous work funded by the committee appears to be well done, which Ms. Trout also confirmed. Mr. Plessner reminded the group that the applicant submitted the entire package before but was denied because the overall scope and cost was too high. Chairperson Looper noted the community is doing a good job with applications. Ms. Deschenes made a motion to recommend the application for approval for the lower amount. Ms. Carrington seconded the motion. By a vote of 7-1, this application was approved for recommendation.
7. Chairperson Looper asked if there was any Old Business.

The committee had previously asked that the Certificate of Good Standing be included in the committee packages for review. Chairperson Looper confirmed that the certificates have been included and expressed his appreciation.

8. Chairperson Looper asked if there was any New Business.

Depending on the number of applications received in the fourth quarter, some may be denied due to insufficient funds. Ms. Trout clarified that grants are considered on a first come first serve basis, and Mr. Plessner noted that his community intends to resubmit a past application.

Bruce Rineer inquired of the Chairperson what level of involvement is preferred from staff. Chairperson Looper noted that another committee member may be interested in the chairperson position. The committee also discussed the benefits of accessing grant application packages on-line.

The committee discussed ways to increase the pool of communities that are aware of the grant program and potential positions on the committee. Chairperson Looper indicated that the committee has discussed this in the past and noted that some communities have excellent internal communication; others not so much, which means but for the committee member's dual role, a community may not even be aware of the grant program.

Mr. Rineer noted a number of ongoing initiatives of MDOT MAA: an update to the Airport Noise Zone (ANZ) Study, which includes a Stakeholder Advisory Committee, the installation of new permanent noise monitors located throughout the communities around BWI Marshall, and a presentation on general noise topics to the Harmons Civic Association the following day. Regarding the updated ANZ, Ms. Christoffers noted that the eligibility determination is written into the statute (which references a previous ANZ), so an updated ANZ does not mean eligibility boundaries would change unless the statute is amended.

Ms. Trout noted that the most effective way to increase the program's visibility might be to highlight a before-and-after story on social media (through MDOT MAA). Mr. Plessner indicated he may have an appropriate example from his community.

Gary Simmons noted that he is new to the committee and inquired about the type of projects typically included in grant applications, noting that many seem to relate to sidewalk repair. Ms. Trout stated that the MAA Community Relations website includes a link to past projects which is current through 2018 or 2019; and that all projects must be transportation-related. Approved grant applications in the past have included fences, signage, speed bumps, accessibility projects, parking lots, tree removal; lighting; and roadway repairs. Ms. Christoffers noted that the committee may have denied past applications if they were located on county property. Chairperson Looper noted that projects must impact livability in the community, and that the committee has the ability to deny an application if the need is not evident.

The committee discussed the potential process for identifying a new chairperson. Chairperson Looper noted he has served as chairperson for around five years. Mr. Plessner stated that he was happy to serve as chairperson in the future. The statute indicates that the Secretary of Transportation appoints the chairperson, Ms. Christoffers suggested the committee elect a chairperson and forward that recommendation to the Secretary. The committee concluded that an election for a new chairperson would be on the agenda for the fourth quarter meeting.

Karen Harrell noted again that financial disclosure for the ethics commission needs to be completed by all members and a reminder will be forwarded to all members.

Ms. Trout stated that she is very excited that the committee meeting attendance is sufficient to reach quorum at each meeting. She further noted that two members' terms have expired and she has coordinated with MDOT MAA legislative affairs staff and recommends pursuing their reappointment, if they are willing to serve, in order to retain their experience on the committee which has mostly new members along with a new administrative team.

9. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Deschenes and was seconded by Mr. Simmons. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m. by Chairperson Looper.

Note: June 3rd is next meeting.