

## **Park Hills Civic Association Meeting**

**June 19, 2013**

### **Questions From Residents for Councilmember Valerie Ervin**

1. What is the current status of the BikeShare project? Will the County re-stripe some roads for bike lanes?
  
2. Is it possible to have bike racks (to lock your bike to) installed on the south side of Ellsworth, between Fenton and Veteran's Drive? Currently, the only bike locking stations that access the civic building are at the bottom of the stairs on the plaza, near Strosnider's, and are only accessible from the rear of the civic building.
  
3. Can the downtown be provided with recycle trash cans for bottles and cans?
  
4. Can the County review the many 'no turn on red' corners around the CBD to allow more 'turn on red' corners (such as the corner of Fenton and Colesville North)?
  
5. Could you talk about the status of the Silver Spring Transit Center? What solutions and timeline would you and the Council suggest to achieve everyone's goal of a useable, attractive commuting center for Silver Spring residents and others?
  
6. Communities around the current Silver Spring Library support an intergenerational center in that location. Local Silver Spring residents are launching an aging in place "Silver Spring Village" next month, which would mesh wonderfully with an intergenerational center. Downtown Silver Spring has a shortage of recreational and meeting space, and such a facility could serve many in the community, especially if the park next door is expanded to include playing fields. Could you talk about your vision for that area of County property? How can the community work together with the Parks Dep't and County to make an intergenerational center happen, there or on a nearby site?
  
7. We have serious issues with pedestrian safety on Wayne Ave, likely to worsen during years of Purple Line construction. Do you have thoughts about how we can improve pedestrian safety from Sligo Creek Parkway and through the school zones to the Metro station?

8. How does the County classify Flower Ave, Dale Drive and Wayne Ave? If they share the same regulatory status, can similar pedestrian safety improvements be implemented on all three key neighborhood roads?

9. If the county expects more intense development in our area, how will it accommodate increased population pressure on the local public schools? In the last year, we've lost two private schools in our area, which suggests more kids will be going to be in the public school system. Those school properties have been rezoned, which limits the likelihood that replacement schools can be built there.

10. How do you envision future compromise between the issues of county development (population density) and county urban tree canopy/green space (population health)? While the council has recently affirmed its commitment to maintaining and improving the county's down-county tree canopy, the Planning Board continues to award extensive environmental exemptions to local developers. How do you envision a resolution of this dichotomy? What is your personal vision of the County going forward with regard to affordable housing and the environmental impact of increased down-county development?

11. The impact to our tree canopy by all the old growth loss (from severe storms, Pepco tree removal, development of Chelsea School, and the Purple Line proposed retaining wall along the middle school property on Wayne) are of great concern. Millions were spent in Bethesda/Chevy Chase to ameliorate some of their local concerns - will Silver Spring receive a similar amount of capital investment to ensure that the Purple Line, which goes through a residential neighborhood, results in a *showplace*, not degraded corridor? Will you, for example, help institute a vigorous program for tree replacement in and around the Purple Line zone?

12. The Purple Line's current design calls for a 20'x50' transfer power substation to be built at the corner of Greenbrier and Wayne. The community would like to know if MTA can relocate the substation a few blocks away, outside the residential neighborhood (e.g. next to Whole Foods) or bury it underground. Can the County Council get involved to help advocate for this design change?

13. Many of us value the quality of life afforded by our neighborhood's single-family residential character outside the CBD. How do you plan to retain current residential zoning around a built Dale Drive station as promised in your July 30, 2010 letter to the community, despite pressures for ROI on transit-oriented development?

14. Does the County Council have any involvement with the Purple Line decision about whether a stop will be at Wayne and Dale? If so, what information and data are being gathered to make the final decision and when will it be made? Will the data be shared with the community in advance, and if so, how far in advance?

15. The County Council recently relaxed rules on the amount of money developers have to give to pay for road and other infrastructure improvements; yet my property tax bill specifically stated that I'm in a "part of a development tax district which may require the payment of a special assessment, tax, fee, or charge by the homeowner." Does this mean that as more development happens for Silver Spring, we will be paying for the same improvements property developers previously paid for? If so, does this mean we should expect additional surcharges on our property tax bills to pay for some aspects of the Purple Line that are not covered by MTA, such as moving the power lines up on higher poles, footpaths and cycle lanes, and general beautification of Wayne Ave?

16. Private-Public partnerships are frequently bad deals for the public, whether for hospitals, toll roads, or forms of infrastructure. Why should we expect private funding for the Purple Line to be any different? Shouldn't we be re-evaluating the project as an express bus route to cut more than \$1.4 billion?

17. How can we urge the Council to influence the Planning Dep't to implement the new zoning code through a process like Master Plan amendment (vs. full Master Plan rewrite) in order to maintain resident/stakeholder participation? Is there someone on the County Council staff who is the point-of-contact for this issue? Do you personally support the new uses for R-60 and R-90 zones allowed by floating zones?

18. What will be the greatest challenges you expect the Council will face over the next couple of years.