

Park Hills Civic Association
Silver Spring International Middle School Library/Media Center
February 13, 2019
7:30 -9:00 pm

16 residents in attendance

Last meeting minutes summarized; next time will print out and approve both sets

Nina Vucenik- Survey results

Establish baseline to community interest and knowledge

As of 4 pm 43 people responded

42 are aware of us and work

Most get info from listserv, word of mouth, FB, other listservs, local publications, PTSAs, neighbor's Facebook post

Issues order of importance:

- PL
- Pedestrian safety walkable neighborhoods
- Dale Drive safety
- Wayne Avenue safety
- Elected gov officials responsive -70% yes

Other issues-

- Road maintenance/potholes, poor repaving
- Increased transit
- Bike share station
- Thefts break-ins
- More patrols
- Gas water infrastructure
- New school pick up route
- Gutters and sidewalk improvement
- Chronic gas leaks
- Replacing green space lost to purple line

Demographics questions

Guests:

Wade Holland, Vision Zero

Works for county exec and focus on Vision Zero

Concept- traffic deaths unacceptable, eliminate them by 2030

Sweden had low rate and made it lower

USA has decreased but at slower rate than other OECD countries

Traffic related injuries and deaths preventable and unacceptable

Human life priority over mobility and other interests of road system

Human error inevitable; system needs to anticipate error and eliminate severe injury and death as consequences

Speed is predictor of crash survival

Bikes and pedestrians most vulnerable

Different entities controlling different roads in county so need to work together

Vision Zero started in NYC in 2014- 150/200 pedestrian fatalities per year

MoCo is first county to adopt Vision Zero

What does it look like in suburbs? No one has ever really done it

Safe systems design/complete streets design for arterial road

Complete street- separate roadway users

Separate transit lines- transit reduces fatality rates

Bus stop near crosswalk

Narrowing crossing distances

How to retrofit county?

Pedestrian scramble- one near Giant in Bethesda, some have diagonal crossing - that one doesn't

Protected bike lanes

Floating bus stop so cyclist doesn't interact with bus

Hawk signal- instructs drivers at pedestrian crossings

Signal timing; removing right on red where conflict, 3.5 foot per second crossing time

Lighting- after DST spike in collisions

2 year action plan

Nov 2017- Leggett issued plan

Severe and fatal collision data- mixed results so far

Cyclists and motor vehicles occupant targets hit but no pedestrian target

Bigger vehicles being bought- good for vehicle occupants but not pedestrians

Ped accidents 450 per year, mainly afternoon commute, worse in winter months

14 fatalities in 2018, most in overnight hours- impairment and speed are factors

High injury network

Roads with highest rate and density of severe and fatal collisions

Aspen Hill, Wheaton/Glenmont, Langley, Germantown/Gaithersburg, Rockville Pike

Piney Branch and Georgia Avenue

Wayne and Dale 2012

Bicycle collision 2016

Academic studies- still guessing how much goes unreported/ hospital data - not confident coding is correct

Severe and fatal usually not undercounted

Crash density higher non English speaking, Hispanic and Latino. Lower socioeconomic, lower median age
Starting equity task force to make sure we have equity as we go toward zero

Zero Vision - DTSS Bicycle (BIPPA) Priority area

Dale Drive improvements

Wayne Ave /2nd ave unique bike lane features

Racing Boston for fully protected bicycle crosswalk east of Mississippi

Special phase for cyclists to cross

Removing right on red on Colesville at that location

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/visionzero>

Getting involved- safe routes to schools getting new coordinator

Walking school bus, walk to school day, park and walk, bicycle rodeo, bike train

Education: contest Don't be Distracted March 4 deadline - art, video

Grants available for students to develop education campaigns

Engineering- work with MCPS - ADA compliance, crosswalk updates, etc.

Improvements in crash data in safe routes program

Website- service requests in light out, safety concerns,

Lighting very important to safety- when lights out data shows crash rates up

Click on pole and it will tell you whether it's county's or Pepco- Don Slater pointed out wood poles belong to Pepco

Residential traffic calming- can get traffic study done using link on website or 311

If less than 1,000 cars per day, no engineering change but can do speed monitoring and education campaign

Collector street (from neighborhood to main road) greater than 4000 cars per day- will possible enhance enforcement, do speed study to determine countermeasures, need resident or citizen association endorsement for implementation

Arterial roads- 1,000-4,000 cars- independent treatment, cannot use certain things like speed bumps

Questions

Federal DOT- black box and beacons-

Enforcing 25 mph

Rampant speeding in video 3x of day

A lot of time there are roads county would like to change, but no opportunity- with PL going in, it may be an opportunity for public input

Handouts: Lookout for Each Other, Shifting Gears

Gary Skulnik, Neighborhood Sun

Community solar

Located in World Building on Georgia; he started company

New way for people who don't want or can't get solar

Gary@neighborhoodsun.solar = mail him with stat he gives tonight for extra discount

Passed by Maryland General Assembly

Enables people to subscribe to a solar project in their utility area and get same credits they would get if they had solar system

Project in FT Washington- Panorama solar project- for anyone in Pepco Maryland territory
5% discount on power bill if you sign up and supporting construction of green energy project
5 year contract

They get historical usage through Pepco

Size solar subscription at 75-100 percent of your usage

You get a share of the project's solar and that is credited against your energy bill

Offsets all charges incl taxes and fees

80 percent of market cannot access solar on their roof

If you move out of Pepco territory cancel without penalty, within Pepco territory, contract transfers

Have 800 subscribers, Will subscribe up to 1200 people

Project not live yet

Credit check required- if credit locked, unlock before doing app

Bill on credit card- with lowered Pepco costs, total of both should be less than what paying Pepco now

Charging 5% less than value of what saving from Pepco

He used to run Clean Currents

Risks- if next year another project offers a better deal, already locked in

gary@neighborhoodsun.solar- any stat from tonight worth 10% discount

\$250 cancellation fee

Handout: Panorama Landfill

Chris Richardson -talked about Corrine Hart- wonderful work advocating for improving Dale Dr from Mrs. K's to Georgia

More social events-

Alan and Chris have been with Park Hills for 12 years, rewarding, time to step away after 2-3 meetings through summer- transition to let others have leadership position, new perspective, he might want to do committee work on public safety or PL

- Get someone to do social events
- Website person

Part of challenge is overlapping territory with Seven Oaks, plus PHCA's small serving area

Spread word among neighbors esp ones with families.

Gas Leaks in Park Hills

Carol Gilbert- Gas Leaks Identified in Neighborhood:

501 Bonifant 10/2016 emergency; major leak; repaired same day; outside front of property

503 Bonifant emergency; major leak; service line between 501 and 503; repaired same day 1/23/19; service pipe to be repaired at later date

505 Bonifant under driveway April or May 2018

307 and 306 Wayne Place 1/2019 designated non-emergency; classified as major when repaired 1/23/19; pipe under street connecting properties

401 Deerfield gas line replaced and meter moved because of leak

406 Deerfield gas line replaced and meter moved because of leak

Corner of Deerfield and Wayne Place multiple leaks over time

301 Dale Dr. in front of property persistent gas leak; repaired three times in recent past

Dale Dr. between Deerfield and Mansfield- several leaks, lines replaced on Deerfield?

305 Dale - gas leak 2/13/19

Fleetwood terrace- about 214?- about 2 months ago

Gas workers tell residents there is no danger if you can smell gas- gas company information says opposite; leave area, then call 911, then call gas company

Gas company workers acknowledge that fixing one leak creates others

They say there is a plan to changeover all pipes to plastic but no timetable and Wash Gas doesn't want to share this info with public

Spoke with Edward Segal who lives in Georgetown and has been spearheading efforts to deal with gas leaks in his community. He says the DC plan is to replace all the pipes with plastic on a 40 year timetable and there is information on the website affirming this.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 pm

Addendum to meeting minutes: on the way home from the meeting, 3 neighbors smelled a gas leak between 501 Bonifant St and 307 Wayne Place on the cut-through- Carol called it in to gas company

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Bengle Gilbert
PHCA Secretary