

**Minutes of the Greater Farmland Civic Association (GFCA)
Community General Meeting
April 6, 2016**

The Board of Directors of the Greater Farmland Civic Association met on April 6, 2016 at Farmland Elementary School, Old Gate Road, Rockville MD 20852 at 7:30 PM. Approximately 60 community members as well as Board members Ed Rich, Marta Vogel, Toby Levin, and Peggy Slye, along with Committee Chairs Paul Arveson, Pamela Levine and Tracy Miller attended this meeting. President Ed Rich called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM

Community Forum/Member Comments: No comments were provided at this meeting.

Election of GFCA Board Members: Ed Rich introduced Toby Levin, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee. Toby Levin reported that, in accordance with the GFCA By-Laws, the election was being held to fill two vacancies on the GFCA Board of Directors and that two candidates were being presented for these vacancies. Current GFCA Board of Directors member Peter Rumm had agreed to continue to serve and was a candidate for re-election and community member Rick Gentry was a candidate for election as well. Rick Gentry addressed members and indicated that he was interested in raising eco-awareness within the community. Rick has also assisted the GFCA with updating and improving the community Facebook page and website. Members were asked to vote by display of membership cards which were issued for the election and the two candidates were elected unanimously without dissent.

President's Report: President Ed Rich thanked outgoing GFCA Board Members Marta Vogel and Lisa Woll for their service and for their multiple contributions to the GFCA. Ed Rich also provided a summary for members of the GFCA's activities during the past year. The highlights included:

- publication of the community directory and the updated version of the directory which will be distributed shortly;
- creation of the community Facebook page
- update of the community website
- annual 4th of July parade and festivities
- winter social for families
- annual yard sale
- representation during the PEPCO/Exelon merger discussions
- participation the ongoing Tilden MS and Rock Terrace consolidation discussions
- representation in discussions of cluster wide school enrollment discussions
- representation during Ride On Bus Route 42 public hearings
- leadership and coordination with Park and Planning officials regarding Tilden Recreation Center renovation

In response to questions from community members, Ed Rich indicated that the Tennis Courts at Tilden Recreation Center were resurfaced about 5 years ago, that the lighting

for the courts would be upgraded as a part of the renovation plan and Park and Planning would be requested to review the status of the fencing for the courts. With regard to deer problems in the community, it was agreed that a Park and Planning service speaker would address this issue in the near future.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tom Biggs provided a written report in advance of the meeting and indicated that current funds on hand total \$20,282.16, with several current expenses pending including the cost of directory publication.

Committee Reports:

Membership – On behalf of Committee Chair Emily Mintz, Ed Rich reported that the GFCA currently has a membership of 395 as a result of the annual GFCA membership drive. The membership goal, which was achieved last year, is 450 which would represent approximately 40% of all community households. Additional outreach efforts are required to reach the goal again this year. A list of households, including those who are currently non-members, has been prepared for each block captain. Two new block captains are currently needed for Plantation Lane and Tilden Lane. Members were asked to encourage their neighbors to join the GFCA and to support the efforts of block captains in reaching the membership goal.

Transportation - Committee Chair Tracy Miller reported that during the past year the Transportation Committee has focused on a number of key issues regarding transportation concerns within the community. The primary activities include:

- linking community members with resources for identified needs
- monitoring community concerns
- ranking and prioritizing concerns for action
- participating in the Tilden MS consolidation plans regarding transportation
- developing community input for Ride On Bus Route 42 discussions
- supporting the creation of bike lands
- communicating with Farmland ES community regarding transportation safety
- coordinating with Luxmanor and North Farm on transportation issues
- communicating with Montgomery County Police, District 2

In response to community questions, Ed Rich and Tracy Miller indicated that road resurfacing efforts within the community are handled by two different agencies, i.e., Montgomery County Department of Transportation for potholes and general road maintenance and WSSC for work related to WSSC repairs and maintenance. The large project on Montrose Parkway is related WSSC storm water management efforts in order to comply with EPA regulations.

Energy and Government Affairs – Committee Chair Paul Arveson reported that The PEPCO/Exelon merger was given final approval by the Public Service Commission for the District of Columbia and noted that approximately \$90M in local incentives were provided as part of the merger negotiations. He also indicated that Brian Frosh opposed the merger and has led efforts to seek repeal. Paul Arveson reported on purchase power agreements for homeowners who are willing to install solar panels and who are interested

in obtaining lower utility bills. He indicated that process is quite simple but can be slow. Paul Arveson also reminded members that primary elections will be held within the month and that early voting begins on April 14, with the primary on April 26. He noted that the League of Women Voters website provides an overview of candidates by district for the forthcoming election.

New Business: No new business was introduced at this meeting.

Other Business:

Upcoming Community Events: The remaining GFCFA Board of Directors meetings will be held on May 25, August 22 and November 15, 2016 at 7 PM. Marta Vogel reported that a community family dance would be held on May 22, 2016 at Farmland ES. Everyone is welcome and no experience is needed to participate in this Contra Dance event. Also, on April 16, 2016, volunteers are needed and everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in the annual Potomac River Watershed Clean-up at Cabin John Park Picnic Area; community service (SSL) hours are available for students who volunteer for this event. A storm camp event to assist families in preparing for emergencies is being considered for late summer or early fall; this event is usually scheduled on a Sunday for a 4 hour period.

Guest Speaker: Maryland House of Delegates Representative, District 16, Marc Korman

Mr. Korman is one of 3 state delegates along with Bill Frick and Adrienne Kelly; Susan Lee is the area State Senator. Mr. Korman, who is an attorney, indicated that he sought to address the disconnect between Annapolis and Montgomery County. He noted that the Budget process in Maryland is driven the Governor and that elected represented can only reduce line items in the budget, but cannot add new items. He indicated that the legislature was success in obtaining additional school funding for Montgomery County and other areas in Maryland with high rates of student enrollment growth. The additional funding will be \$40 M in the forthcoming year. Mr. Korman also noted that areas of special interest and concern for this legislative session included: lengthening the period of time required for repayment of the WIN Tax refunds, identifying renewable resource funding, and establishing a state administered retirement program for employees whose employers do not presently offer a retirement plan.

In response to questions from the community, Mr. Korman noted that Metro funding is provided by WMATA which is a consortium of local and federal government agencies. As a result, funding is not always evenly or promptly provided and that Metro would benefit by the recent addition of new management but could also improve with a simplified funding and governance plan. Since the legislative session is due to end in April, Mr. Korman indicated that if an emergency should develop, there is a provision which allows the Maryland Board of Public Works to cut any budget line item by up to 25% and to reallocated those funds, as needed, to meet the emergency. In response to a question about redistricting within Maryland, Mr. Korman said that he favored working

with one or more other similarly situated states to create a compact which would allow for redistricting without disadvantaging any groups within the states covered by the compact. As a means of obtaining current information about activities in Annapolis, Mr. Korman recommended several resources including: mdreporter.com, centermaryland.org, marckorman.com as well as the Bethesda Magazine's Bethesda Beat.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.