

Minutes of ECA Board Meeting – 2/25/2019 – Bethesda MD

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM

1. The Board approved the minutes of the January January 21, 2019 Board Meeting.

2. Membership Renewals

Sandy Spring Builders agreed to send a note to their clients who are new area residents about the ECA.

ACTION ITEM: Jeffrey will draft language.

Online renewals are going well.

ACTION ITEM: David will send a final reminder for online renewals by 2/28.

We will stuff envelopes for the renewal and new member letters at Huda's house on 3/11 at 7:00 in the evening.

ACTION ITEM: On 3/11, David will bring the envelopes and stamps. Josh print and bring copies of the letters and the mailing labels.

3. Zoning Text Amendment 19-01

County Council hearing is tomorrow evening (2/26). CBAR is preparing a letter objecting to many parts of the ZTA and requesting that it be withdrawn and reworked, but they may not be able to get it approved in time. We discussed doing our own letter taking a similar position. The Board agreed to support the CBAR letter but, in addition, prepare our own. It will have to be fairly brief due to the tight timeframe.

ACTION ITEM: David will draft a letter to the County Council, based largely on the CBAR drafts, and circulate it for comment tomorrow morning with the intent of releasing it so that it would be received by the Council prior to the hearing tomorrow evening.

4. Clarendon Sidewalk and Clarendon/Elm Intersection

Montgomery County DOT is proceeding with construction of 3 sidewalks in the neighborhood starting in late spring: (1) on the west side of Clarendon, between Exeter and Elm; (2) a sidewalk on the north side of Bethesda Avenue that connects Clarendon Avenue to the beginning of the parking lot running in front of the Butcher's Alley line of businesses; and (3) a paved pathway to replace the current gravel and dirt pathway in the Elm Street ROW that runs between Fairfax and Glenbrook. At the Clarendon/Elm intersection, they will remove the bare asphalt space at the southwest corner of the intersection and extend the grass area to Elm Street so that cars and trucks cannot park there (improving visibility). The County arborist reconfirmed that 5 trees (including 4 dead/dangerously leaning trees) will need to be removed as part of the Elm Street ROW project.

5. Community Meeting on Security

The community meeting is now scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, 7:00 PM, Bethesda Police Station with Officer Dana Stroman leading the meeting. Unfortunately, that's during spring break, so we'll try to find another day.

ACTION ITEM: David will work with police to reschedule the meeting.

6. Spring Membership Meeting

Current agenda is Councilmember Andrew Friedson and EC-Net User Guidelines. We should also include a brief summary of the upcoming ECA/Police community meeting.

Suggested topics for Friedson – School overcrowding, Sidwell, development, ZTA 19-01

ECNet – Are current rules too strict?

ACTION ITEM: Josh will look into alternative platforms for more open discussion of topics of interest and report on them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM