



**Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2009**

Opening Remarks and Committee Reports

Sam Snowden opened the meeting with an update regarding House Bill 99, which concerns “drug nuisance” issues. This bill has recently been changed so that city government can take more timely action against properties connected with illegal drug activities. In light of this bill, Mr. Snowden encouraged residents to use 311 to report problem properties. Next, he invited committee reports:

Youth and Education Committee:

- Our neighborhood’s fifth annual **Summer Art Camp** will begin at the end of June. This camp, which is open to 15 students in grades 3-6, is organized by neighborhood leaders and led by MICA art students. Sessions are held in the evenings between 6:00 and 8:00, and applications and flyers are now available.
- Support for the re-building of Community **Playground at Stadium Place** was outstanding, and many neighborhood residents donated time and food in order to re-establish the playground which was destroyed by fire last year. With plans to re-open at the end of the month, the playground features improvements including flame resistant materials, poured plastic play surfaces (instead of mulch), and increased video surveillance.
- **Family movie night** and the **fun wagon** are anticipated to return to the neighborhood this summer, though volunteers are needed to help organize these events.

For more information, please contact Joan Stanne at stannejoan@yahoo.com or 410-889-0329.

Public Safety Committee

- **Block Captain Meetings.** All residents are invited to participate in ongoing block Captain meetings. The next meeting, which will take place on June 16 at 7:00 PM, will concern the enforcement of city housing codes.
- **COP Volunteers.** Drivers, bikers, and walkers are needed for Communities on Patrol. Contact Chris Ryon at crryon@hotmail.com in regard to evening shifts (Thursday, Friday and alternate Saturdays). Contact Jeanne Adams (410-236-0174) in regard to daytime walking groups.
- **National Night Out Against Crime.** We will again be hosting NNO, which will take place on August 4. The NortheastCOP annual caravan throughout the entire northeast district with illuminated top signs will begin at Stadium [Place and return to join EGLS for a BBQ afterward. Volunteers are needed to both set up for the event and ride in the caravan.

For more information, please contact Chris Ryon at crryon@hotmail.com.

Legislative Update: Maggie McIntosh and Curt Anderson

Delegates Maggie McIntosh and Curt Anderson presented a session report on recent activity in the state legislature. Delegate McIntosh reported on the following areas:

- **Maryland State Budget.** Despite the financial crisis, the state's budget has been balanced without cutting public education, public safety programs, or key health programs. The federal stimulus package has provided approximately \$880 million via the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, filling budget cuts in areas such as education.
- **Environmental protection.** Progress in this area includes: the replacement of pollution-causing septic systems in buildings around rivers and streams; reduction of phosphorus pollution stemming from fertilizer use; and increased participation in recycling programs. More specifically, in Baltimore we've increased recycling by over 300 percent by transitioning to a single stream system.
- **Transportation and safety.** A bill has been passed to make text messaging illegal while driving. Restrictions on teen drivers have also been enacted to protect these new drivers.
- **Development.** \$5.2 million has been allocated to GEDCO for the development of Stadium Place with projects including the Green House long-term care facility, a multi-purpose sports field, and Our Playground at Stadium Place. Plans are also being pursued to renovate Northwood Shopping Center.

Delegate Anderson also noted that progress had been made in the areas of domestic violence, gun control, and the lowering of traffic speed through the use of video monitoring and ticketing.

Public Safety Update

Sergeant Tserkis noted that "power shifts," which provide double coverage between 9PM and 2AM, continue in our area. Crimes reported in our neighborhood included 8 robberies, 8 aggravated assaults, 8 burglaries, 8 auto thefts, and 12 larcenies. Tserkis encouraged residents to use locking clubs to protect their cars.

Cricket Communication Proposal Plan

Cricket has proposed to erect a communications tower at Mervo High School. Due to concerns for the health of the residents surrounding Mervo as well as the structural integrity of the school building, the neighborhood organization will be against this proposal. There is a hearing on this issue on May 26 at 1:00 at City Hall.

*****Next EGLSCA Meeting: September 15, 2009 at 7:30 PM*****