

GPCA General Meeting

May 12, 2008

There were approximately 26 attendees at the meeting.

The meeting began at approximately 7:35 p.m. Senator Delores Kelley was the guest speaker.

Introductions were made of all present at the meeting so that neighbors can become familiar with one another.

The minutes from last month's meeting were read. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor of acceptance.

Marty Kelly read the Treasurer's report. The balance in the general account as of May 5, 2008 was \$6241.96.

Ralph Wright mentioned a change in the Restrictive Covenant Agreement information. The edited information was: *Councilman Oliver offered to representatives of Bethel Church and Christian Life Church that a meeting with GPCA to discuss a Restrictive Covenant Agreement be conducted prior to final zoning decisions.*

A summary of the Restrictive Covenant Agreement process was made. The belief is that Bethel was the only entity not properly represented in the process.

Dr. Joe Tatawaricz stated that Councilman Oliver has suggested that GPCA enter into a one on one discussion with the entities about covenant agreements.

There is a June 26 County Council public hearing at New Town Senior High School. Ed Gillis is the contact at the Planning Board.

Additional 'Say No to Upzoning' lawn signs can be procured if needed.

A review of the King Memorial Park and County Funeral Home Bill were made. The bill was passed and signed off on but before March Funeral Home can build on the property, the community has to be contacted. The County Council made another change on the Meyerhoff museum recently. The consensus was that the community should sign up for electronic notifications made by the county...www.baltimorecounty.gov

A summary of the last board meeting included a meeting with Georgianne Grant. She will be the new coordinator for the newsletter collation. Equipment will be bought to streamline the process. A budget will be submitted by Georgianne.

A storage facility is being reviewed for community archives. Approval will be requested from the board for the change in price from \$59 to \$74 (now \$88).

Gerald Rasheed, Ralph Wright and Bruce Mezger are still being working to redesign the web page. Content is being developed.

The Citizens on Patrol is still looking for volunteers. The contact person is Curtis Collins.

Ideas are needed on ways to involve more youth in community activities.

Dale Feidler asked about the status of the Granite Nike missile site. Dr. Tatawaricz said that the base commander was still looking into cleanup and clearance of the site. After this is done, the land will be available for purchase. A suggestion was made that the county put in a recreation site for community organizations and activities. This would be a good way to get the youth more involved in the community. Claude Libis stated that he has been advised that the site has been released from the federal government and it is now to be decided by the Maryland Department of the Environment what to do with the facility.

Ralph introduced Senator Delores Kelley. She has been a District 10 representative since 1995. Senator Kelley mentioned that she would write the Maryland Department of the Environment about the Nike site on behalf of GPCA. Her topic of discussion was the 2008 Legislative Session. A lot of jobs and services were cut from state agencies. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene cut about \$48 million from services. Senator Kelley mentioned that we need to expand our sales tax base. A tax was proposed onto computer services such as repair and data entry. Hospitals, HMO's, banks, and other regulated businesses are the areas of focus by Senator Kelley. She does not sit on a budget committee. A landscaping and snow removal service tax was also introduced. Legal and accounting fees were also proposed as another tax base. The committees did not want to challenge these professionals. A new tax bracket was proposed for those who made \$650,000 or more. This was voted in. The DNA bill passed. Senator Kelley had civil liberties concerns.

Senator Kelley was able to get a bill passed to require accreditation of crime labs. Innocent people are being convicted as a result of shabby research, yet some rape offenders are getting off without conviction. Bills were passed that address domestic partnerships. Any two people who share a household, declare themselves to be a family and who sign an affidavit can make

medical decisions for their partners.

A law was passed effective January 1, 2009 where no insurance contract can force you to go into arbitration.

A bill was proposed where a person laid off from a part time job through no fault of their own could collect unemployment. It passed the Senate, but did not pass the House.

All BGE customers will get a \$170 credit in the fall.

A bill was passed to set up a task force to examine title insurance in Maryland.

Anne Libis asked about the Global Warming solutions bill. It passed the Senate, but not the House.

A question was raised about clues to where the solutions will be to balance the state budget. The answer from Senator Kelley was that there are no clues. Maryland is receiving many federal government cuts.

Anne Libis shared some information on changes at Northwest Hospital Center. In observance of the 'Freedom to be Green Program', the hospital has started a recycling component, using environmentally friendly products and the incinerator is no longer being used. The hospital is one of the leaders in the state of Maryland regarding measures taken to control patient staph infections. All ICU patients are now tested upon admission.

Cathy Wolfson talked about zoning issues 4-026 and 4-031. Cathy is meeting with Mr. Moxley on June 3. All of the 'NO UPZONING' signs have been disbursed.

A question was asked if there was anything new coming to the shopping center where Marshall's department store is (on Liberty Road). Bruce Mezger shared that he would do some research.

Future meeting agendas include:

- Ewald August & Pahl Farm speaking on an agricultural topic
- Public Safety Representatives discussion on area crime, sexual offenders, traffic congestions, and preventative actions
- Representative from State Property Tax Agency

Claude Libis shared information about the Pension Protection Act. It is for organizations that do not file tax returns. GPCA fits into this category because annual receipts are less than \$25,000. GPCA will be required to respond to this each year by the middle of May. GPCA is a 501c4 organization.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous.