

MINUTES LCA GENERAL MEETING MAY 13, 2014

PRESENT: JULIE SZYMANSKYK, MARIE FREDERICK, MARCIA HETTINGER, CHRISTINE TENNIES JOHN ALEXANDER, RUBEN BARD, DEBBIE DARR, JEFF DIER, JANET DALY, DIANA BEESON.

President Julie Szymanscyk welcomed the three candidates running for County Council.

First, unopposed democratic candidate Laurie Taylor-Mitchell : Mitchell described her community involvement history. She worked to get Ridgely Middle School air conditioning and supported this year's change to a hybrid school board for Baltimore County. As a former educator, Taylor-Mitchell said children and education are her top priorities. She said as an art historian, she's interested in historic preservation and open spaces. She said traffic congestion is a topic she's concerned about and since there's a surplus in this year's county budget, it would be a good year for the community to ask for traffic improvements. She also supports communicating with the community in advance of important council decisions.

Taylor-Mitchell said she would look into the Roland Run flood plain issue, including funding for flood plain management and neighbors' concerns and safety.

She also said, if elected, the county council position will be her only job. She said she's been going to every community meeting in the district and is seeking out people who have extensive experience in county government to advise her.

2. Republican challenger Wade Kach pointed out he has 40 years' experience in state and local offices. He said he absolutely supports keeping Lutherville the way it is, and green spaces in the community should remain untouched. He said the county's Master Plan would be his guide for preservation of historic communities, green spaces, and farmland.

Fiscally, Kach is against raising taxes, and thinks the budget should be carefully examined for ways to save money. He said

his 40 years of experience in politics have given him the knowledge and network to serve the community well. He opposed putting a new school in Mays Chapel because it eliminates open space. He said county administration costs have risen 32 percent, and education administration positions have risen as well. He would rather increase teacher pay. Kach enthusiastically supports the preservation of open space and agricultural land in our district, and he wants to encourage people to put their land in conservations in exchange for tax credits. He opposes school superintendent Dallas Dance decision to change Harford High's class schedule despite community opposition.

3. Current Baltimore County Council representative Todd Huff, Republican. On education, Huff took credit for expanding air conditioning in county schools. He said he opposed building a school in Mays Chapel, but lost that fight. He said the decision on scheduling at Hereford High was made solely by schools superintendant Dallas Dance. He said he's against some of Dance's decisions like scheduling changes, implementing the common core curriculum and giving every student a tablet computer, because of the expense and risk of cyber crimes. On the College Manor issue, Huff said it appears College Manor will not be able to get financing for their expansion plans. That means the property's zoning will revert to its original status. Huff said he does not support giving College Manor another chance to develop with higher zoning.

Huff was asked why he didn't let the community know about a split zoning deal to accommodate a car dealership in Towson. He blamed an overlap in zoning decisions.

On traffic, Huff said he opposes speed cameras and prefers giving that money to police instead.

In addition to the three candidates for county council, Chris West, Republican candidate for state delegate from district 42B, spoke. West concentrated on business issues, saying increased

tax rates have hurt Maryland by driving businesses and jobs, out of the state. He says he's an ardent conservationist when it makes sense. He supports replacing coal-burning power plants with natural gas. He opposes windmills off the Maryland shore, saying it will only provide .01 percent of the state's electricity needs. He supports fracking, but only with more information and more monitoring.

Democrat candidate Robert Leonard then spoke, saying his main issues are education and the environment. He teaches at the Community College of Baltimore County. He opposed natural gas and fracking. He also wants to protect open spaces.

The rest of the meeting was concerned with a slate of candidates for the Lutherville Community Association. Nominating committee Marie Frederick asked for volunteers for the vacant vice-president position. Lynn Dewitt volunteered. Marie present the rest of the slate for a vote, which was adopted and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen McGee
Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "K T McGee". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name and title.