

MINUTES FOR LCA GENERAL MEETING, 10/11/16

LCA President Julie Szymaszek was absent. The meeting was conducted by Marie Frederick and Eric Rockel.

1. The first issue presented was the proposal to build a new Grace Fellowship Church at Falls Road and Seminary Avenue.

a) The Church's lawyer, Chris Mudd, said the site comprises about 21 acres. The new church would accommodate 1,200 seats, and need 568 parking spaces. Mr. Mudd said they've presented their plan to the county and were told its storm water management measures were inadequate. The church has a year to file a development plan, including a traffic study. After that, other county agencies will comment, and there will be more community input. To questions about the possibility of a school, Mr. Mudd said there's not enough space for one now, and that would require another approval process. A member of the audience said a google search showed the church hosted 1,600 events last year.

b) Tim Tremblay, representing "UTSSA", a neighborhood association opposed to the church, said it will equal a big commercial enterprise in its effect on traffic and storm water management. He said there will be 8 1/2 acres of impervious soil, presenting a flood threat and contamination of Deep Run Creek. The number of events will vastly increase traffic. He's asking the LCA to join in opposition to the project.

Representative Chris West said he wants to address the possibility that the traffic will require widening Seminary Ave or Falls Road. So far, Baltimore County seems to be against the plan, but there is a long process to come.

2. Minutes from the previous General Meeting, on May 10, 2016, were approved.

3. Treasurer Debbie Darr reported a balance of assets and liabilities at \$20,653.23, about five thousand dollars less than last year. Income as of now stands at \$413.71. Debts coming up include liability insurance, \$500.00, the newsletter, \$400.00, and director and officers' insurance, \$1,000.

4. Communications chair Molly White was absent.

5. Hospitality chair Christine Tennies said she brought flowers to six new families in the community. She asked everyone to let her know of any new neighbors.

6. Membership chair Marcia Hettinger said it looks like the idea of putting mailers in the newsletter is working. So far, 54 more people have signed up than this time last year, and there is still another mailing.

7. As far as security, there were three breakins in the community. Marie Frederick said people should call police if they spot solicitors, and also notify police while on vacation.

8. Special Events: College Manor and the LCA will host a Fall Fest and Bonfire at College Manor on Saturday, November 12. It will include cider and food trucks, and activities for adults and children, as well as a bake sale. The event is free, and there will be collections of canned goods and/or warm socks for those in need.

There was a sign-up sheet for a neighborhood cleanup on October 22nd, and plans are being made for holiday events.

9. Traffic committee chair Jeff Dier said the committee likes the idea of “drive like your children live here” signs, and suggested buying three of them and rotating them throughout the community.

10. Public facilities and Zoning: Eric Rockel reported Curio Wellness got a license to grow and process marijuana for medical use at a facility on Aylesbury Road. There will not be a dispensary on the site, but it’s a possibility in the future. The owner promises a good filtration system as well as good security. Marcia Hettinger asked how it got permission so fast, and Eric said the State and Baltimore County decided no community input was necessary.

On storm water management, County Executive Kevin Kamenetz said the county doesn’t have money to improve the storm drain system on Bellona, Melancthon, and Division Avenues.

Residents will be able to testify at a planning board meeting later in October.

Marcia Hettinger asked for a show of hands on the Grace Fellowship proposal. Most in attendance opposed it.

John Alexander said the Green Towson Alliance is fighting a proposal for a “travel plaza” at York Road and Bosley Avenue.

People who oppose the project can sign a petition on the Green Towson website. Other possibilities for the site include apartments or a Harris Teeter supermarket.

Marcia Hettinger asked about the Towson Presbyterian Home property, and was told the landmarks commission is working on having it declared historic. Marcia also explained why a Lutherville House tour was cancelled for 2017 - because not enough homeowners would volunteer their houses.

And Rita Nabhan will become the official Special Events chairperson.

The meeting was adjourned.

*HT McGee
Secretary*