

**Prince George's Advocates for Community-based Transit
Minutes of the Meeting of Oct. 10, 2011
Hyattsville City Hall, 5:15-6:45 p.m.**

Present: Karren Pope-Onwukwe, presiding; Andy Fellows, Norma Merritt, Bill Orleans, Joel Ryerson, Rev. Gloria Swierenga, and Bill Wilson.

1. The minutes of the meeting of Sept. 12, 2011, were accepted as distributed.
2. The balance in the checking account was \$81.04. It was suggested that Wilson explore with Wells Fargo Bank or SECU getting a new checking account that would not have a monthly maintenance fee.
3. Orleans reported on attending on Oct. 9 a PRISCM EVENT at 4 p.m., which was attended by about 50 people. Orleans read from the program, which was mostly about mortgage foreclosures and the possibility of closing volunteer fire departments in Prince George's County.
4. Those present were reminded of the ACT 25th anniversary event for Oct. 11 in Takoma Park, which was to celebrate the progress on the approval and funding of the Purple Line.

[PG ACT members present were Orleans, Lateefah S. Williams, and Wilson.]

5. Karren reported that she had attended on Sept. 21 at the invitation of John Delaney of Blueprint Maryland a meeting at the College Park Marriott—to discuss ideas of how to improve the State. The invitation was issued because Karren participates in Transportation for Maryland. A diverse broad section of the community was represented, including teachers, economic development staff, and planning department staff. Employment dealing with aging and energy retrofitting was discussed. Orleans commented that it was his understanding that Blueprint Maryland is a corporate business-oriented group. A Blueprint Maryland leaflet, entitled “Help Shape Maryland's Future” was distributed.

6. Karren reminded those present that the Federal Transit Administration had recently given its first step approval for proceeding with the detailed planning for the Purple Line. This followed closing on the heels of a similar approval for the Red Line in Baltimore. Fellows reminded the group that he is on the Board for Purple Line Now.

7. The Governor brought his road show to Cheverly on Oct. 5th. Orleans learned from the MD DOT Secretary that Rep. Donna Edwards has secured \$20,000 to study continuing the Purple Line beyond New Carrollton to the South. County Executive Baker wants the construction for the Purple Line started from New Carrollton and then going West and North

8. Orleans reminded those present that the only public hearing on Metro Bus “service adjustments” was to be held Wed., Oct. 12, starting at 6 p.m., at the Methodist Church on Belcrest Road in Hyattsville. Orleans was especially concerned about the R3 route, the only

route proposed to be eliminated. He said that R3 should not be eliminated without providing an alternate route to important places, e.g. Beltway Plaza.

Gloria said that not enough notice of the hearing was given for visually impaired riders.

WMATA asserts that the R3 ridership is too low. But Karren asked: what is the frequency of service on the R3? She said that if service were cheaper and more frequent, riders will come.

9. Joel said that WMATA held a public hearing at the College Park City Hall on Oct. 3 about express (not local) bus service on the ICC.

10. Orleans informed the group that TRU-G (in Greenbelt) was going from monthly to quarterly meetings. Gloria said that he and others in TRU-G should not get weary or frustrated.

11. Wilson shared some information from a "Gazette" article of Sept. 29 (pp. A1 and A12) about the Riverdale Park Council requesting changes to the proposed development of the Cafritz property on Route 1, being planned as a site for a Whole Foods store. "In

addition to more detail in Phase 2, the town requested that a vehicular bridge be constructed over the CSX railway at the south end of the property, which would allow for an east access point to alleviate congestion along U.S. 1" (p. A12)

12. Orleans is running for a seat on the Greenbelt City Council in the election of Nov. 8th. He sought a formal endorsement from PG ACT, which was not given. Karren pointed out that we have not previously endorsed active members in election pursuits, e.g. by Andy Fellows and herself. Orleans then expressed the wish to get some campaign money from ATU local 689, but neither Jimmy Allen or Lateefah Williams was present. Then he asked Karren and Jimmy to write a letter of endorsement. Gloria suggested that in his literature Orleans simply include his involvement in PG ACT, which she said would "own us". Some of those present gave Orleans some money for his campaign.

13. Orleans mentioned that America Speaks is coordinating a program on road pricing at New Carrollton on Oct. 15. It is by invitation only, but Orleans is trying to be allowed to attend.

14. Karren announced that the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition (on whose Board she serves) is sponsoring a screening of the documentary "Stealing Trust" at the Oxon Hill Library on Oct. 18, from 7-8 p.m. The film deals with foreclosure fraud and debt settling companies.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON Mon., Nov. 14, 2011, at 5 p.m. at the Hyattsville City Hall.

Notes prepared by Bill Wilson on Oct. 25, 2011