

**Prince George's Advocates for Community-based Transit  
Minutes of the Meeting of Jan. 9, 2012  
Hyattsville City Hall, Prangley Room, 5:10-6:05 p.m.**

Present: Karren Pope-Onwukwe, presiding; Bill Orleans, Joel Ryerson, and Bill Wilson.

1. The Minutes of the meeting of Dec. 12 were accepted as distributed.
2. The checking account balance remained at \$111.04.
3. Orleans said that John Stith of Greenbelt and TruG, who is moving to College Park, might attend today, but he did not.
4. Karren reported that she had talked with Jimmy Allen and that he is doing OK.
5. Orleans reported that he recently had met Abdul Hassen, who has become the new chief of the Dept. of Public Works and Transportation of Prince George's County. Wilson could not confirm that on the County's website, nor get an email address for him.
6. In regard to correspondence, Karren reported that she had been invited to a meeting of the Champions Council of the Coalition for Smarter Growth for Jan. 23 in a private home. She also passed around a newsletter of the Coalition that contained an 8-page "2011 Year in Review". A name change for the Coalition is being considered. Karren suggested that we have in cooperation with the Coalition a forum in Prince George's County on Transit Oriented Development.

Wilson reminded the group that on Jan. 10 the Coalition was sponsoring a talk by Jeff Turmin on "Happier, Healthier, Sexier and Smarter: Transportation and the Secret of Life" at the National Capital Planning Commission in DC. [Orleans and Wilson attended that.]

[The Coalition is also sponsoring on Jan. 26 at the CSC Building in Lanham a forum entitled "Where and How Should Prince George's Grow?"]

7. Karren reported that she had sent a letter to County Executive Baker, based on our concerns in regard to the impact of the Purple Line in the Langley Park area on small businesses and affordable housing, as expressed in item 6 of the Minutes of the meeting of Dec. 12.
8. Joel reported that he had heard that WMATA was planning another meeting on the changes proposed on the bus situation at the Hyattsville Library for Jan. 18. Wilson then reminded the group that the Prince George's County Planning Dept. had scheduled a public meeting for Jan. 10 on the Purple Line planning for the West Campus (of the Univ. of MD) station. [Wilson attended a very informative meeting.]

9. Karren reported that the Hyattsville City Council was meeting that night (i.e. Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>) at which time they probably would vote to support the changes to the Cafritz property proposal for a Whole Foods Store, etc. being suggested by the Town of Riverdale Park and a few other local towns. There was scheduled a Hearing on the proposal before the County Planning Commission for Jan. 12 at 12:30. [Wilson planned to attend the Hearing, but it was greatly delayed by consideration of an outlet mall on the site of the Salubria plantation, near National Harbor. Wilson left the County office building at 3 p.m., and the Hearing had not yet started.]

10. Karren said that she planned to attend on Jan. 10 a luncheon for the Maryland State Democratic Party—before the Session of the General Assembly was to start on Jan. 11. One of the main issues before the group would be the support of the plan to raise the gasoline tax.

11. Wilson read a factoid from “AARP the Magazine”, Dec. 2011/Jan. 2012, p. 62: “From 2001 to 2009, the number of trips that Americans 50-plus took on public transportation went up 81%.” Karren said that she might scan and forward this page and ask Laura DeSantis to post on our website.

12. Karren informed the group that Councilwoman Andrea Harrison had become the Chair of the County Council. Karren planned to remind Harrison that the Council needs to designate someone to serve on the Transit Committee.

13. Then Karren referred to various sources of information about the County to keep up to date with what is happening politically:

- PG Politics and PG Politics blogspot
- Or the narrower PG D9 Politico (for Council District 9)
- Or the broader Maryland juice.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON Mon., Feb. 13, 2012 at 5 p.m. at the Prangley Room of the Hyattsville City Hall, at 4310 Gallatin Street.

Notes prepared by Bill Wilson on Jan. 13, 2012.