

Greater Shady Grove Civic Alliance

shadygrovecivicalliance@hotmail.com

December 2005 Newsletter

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 14th 8 p.m. Mill Creek Towne Elementary School

Guest Speakers: Joseph Horgan (Call for Accountability), and a representative of the Clarksburg Towne Center Committee

Agenda:

1. Overview on Council Committee Recommended Shady Grove Master Plan
2. Call for Accountability
3. Clarksburg Master Plan overview
4. Call for new officer candidates

Call for Accountability is a civic organization that is asking the County Representatives be held accountable to 7 core principles:

- Consistency and Predictability
- Transparency
- Fairness
- Due Process
- Citizen Participation
- Tough, Swift Enforcement
- Acknowledgement and Correction

A representative will be at the Monthly meeting and asking for organizational and individual endorsement of these principles for demands on elected and appointed County Officials.

Message from President:

Now that the County Council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee (PHED) has sent its recommended version of the Shady Grove Master Plan to the full Council, it is time for those most affected to make our voices heard before the final vote is taken. (see article below for details) The Plan could result in positive changes for our community if it is done right (library, community center, school, parks, bike and walking paths, etc.) but it could also be a disaster if done poorly (too much density, worse traffic, inadequate parks, overcrowded schools, etc.).

In the coming weeks the Council will start considering the plan. If we all let them know what the community does and does not want, we have a good chance of getting a positive result. Example: Blueberry Hill Park will no longer be considered a back up school site because the community spoke clearly and loudly on that issue.

At our September meeting we will vote on the major points in the plan to support or oppose, and come up with our list of needed changes (like providing a community center). Please attend this important meeting and help shape the future of Derwood and the Shady Grove community. *Kay Guinane*

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Shady Grove Master Plan Ready for Council Action

The County Council is wrapping up its work sessions on the Shady Grove Master Plan. The Council will probably vote on the Master Plan prior to resolution of the Clarksburg issues. The Legislative Oversight Office's report on the problems relating to the Clarksburg development did spell out many issues and they are currently going thru arbitration.

The Alliance has been working to get a community center back into the plan, after the PHED committee took it out at the recommendation of the county executive. There are several other problems with the plan as it stands, including excessive density, inadequate park space, lack of county funding for public facilities and the possibility that some county service park functions will not be moved out of the planning area, but put at the corner of Crabbs Branch and Shady Grove Rd.

The Council needs to hear from the communities that one other issue related to the Master Plan is critical to the execution of this master plan. The Bus Operations must not be moved to Shady Grove and Crabbs Branch. A professional Environmental Reclamation organization needs to be funded by the Council so a process can be developed to reclaim the Gude Landfill and use it for industrial functions. The best possible use would be the transfer of the EMOC bus operations to the Gude landfill site.

Links:

PHED Committee Recommendations to County Council- Shady Grove Master Plan 8/30/05 at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/agpackets/050906/2005090605...>

Note: This document is over 100 pages long, about half attachments. A summary will be available at our September 14 Alliance meeting.

Staff memo to PHED Committee for Sept. 7 meeting on community center, streetscaping and transferable development rights at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/compackets/050907/20050907p...> Note: This is a 34 page document. The first 9 pages are the memo, the rest is attachments.

See the Gazette *Council Returns to a Morass of Planning* 8/31/05 at http://www.gazette.net/stories/083105/montcou214923_31886.shtml

Gazette *Council Might Delay Plan for Shady Grove* 8/31/05 at http://www.gazette.net/stories/083105/olnew233933_31888.shtml

Volunteer Opportunities

The Alliance needs your help!

Several dedicated officers of the Alliance that have served the community for many years are stepping aside for family, personal and medical reasons. If you are willing to serve your community, it would benefit both you and our community. To volunteer or nominate someone email David Hunt at hunthart@verizon.net.

Our goal is to **EDUCATE, COMMUNICATE AND STAND UP FOR/AGAINST CAUSES THAT IMPACT OUR COMMUNITY**. If you are willing to donate a couple hours a month plus monthly attendance of the community meetings it would be greatly appreciated.

Our nominating committee will be accepting names starting this Wednesday for the February Elections. Normal time for officer positions is one year, but we are going to consider moving elections to next November for annual elections to follow our fall membership drive. This will be discussed further in this months meeting.

Alliance Meeting Schedule 2005-2006

We have moved our meetings to the second Wednesday of the month. The time, 8. p.m., is the same and the location will continue to be Mill Creek Towne Elementary School. Upcoming meetings dates are:

December 14, January 11, February 8 and March 8. Dates for the April and May meetings will be announced in the winter.