

CLUA Meeting — December 19, 2007
7:00 pm, North East Library
Start time: 19:05, End time: 20:55. Attendance: 13

Treasurer's report:

- Fundraiser: Spent \$455. Made \$480.
- Account Balance: \$3119.03

CLUA incorporation & 501(c)(4) application

- Have filed incorporation papers, thanks to Mike Pretl.
- Once accepted, will file for 501(c)(4) status, which will take some time, and will become retroactive
- Mike Pretl advises that we should be able to endorse candidates in the interim

Short Items / Announcements

CLUA elections in January — 5 board seats open — 2-year terms

- Will have elections in January for half the Board (Ed Cairns, Paul Hughes, Jim Mullin, Ted Patterson and Rupert Rossetti)
- Several members of the Board would like to see some turn-over, given their commitments to the Comp Plan Review Committee
- Nominating Committee: Mike Burns, others to be named

CLUA Committee reports

Research — Spray irrigation of sewage system effluent

- Spray Irrigation - session with Lindsay Tulloch (Cecil Soil Conservation District) went well. CLUA seeking for areas within the Growth Corridor suitable for spray irrigation. Lindsay looking for a way to get her message across.

Policy — Met last Friday

Two new policy statements proposed

- Agribusiness zoning
 - Will change reference to NAR & SAR with Rural Conservation District & Resource Protection District
 - [Motion made & seconded for CLUA to support this.](#)

- Discussion: How to implement: Diana to bring this info to the COC Ag subcommittee ... taking the North Carolina and Michigan examples. Door had been opened by Phyllis Kilby & Vic Priapi in the first meeting of the subcommittee
 - Vote to approve, carried unanimously
- Code Home Rule for Cecil County
 - Policy Committee recommends endorsing Code Home Rule
 - Outcome of three forums will be discussed at County Commissioners Meeting in the new building on 29th Jan
 - General discussion re. Charter, Code Home Rule and Commissioner forms of gov't, with the consensus that the best chance of success in changing gov't was to move to Code Home Rule
 - Do you lose any ability to get major funding (e.g. for infrastructure?)
 - Gives local government more power to be creative in fundraising
 - Allows both Excise Taxes and Impact Fees
 - In a nutshell, Code Home Rule is: Our present form of government with more authority over our own affairs
 - Motion made and seconded to endorse Code Home Rule
 - Carried without dissent (but two abstentions)

Finance

- Made \$25 at Fundraiser ... many thanks to all.
- Between now and 12th Feb (date of primary):
 - E-mail Campaign with an appeal for donations — letter in hand
 - Phone-a-thon with an appeal for donations to our Forum list

Political — Candidate questionnaire, process for endorsement, timeline

- Sent questionnaires (appended to these Minutes) to the four candidates in competitive primary races in advance (12 written answers, another 6 to be answered verbally at the interviews).
 - Robert Hodge - Tom McWilliams
 - Pam Bailey - John Bunnell
 - Will review recommendations at a CLUA general meeting to be held on 15th January, 7 p.m. at Rising Sun Library

Publicity

- Request for Newsletter articles to be sent to Ken — deadline is at month-end
- Will be able to announce endorsements on 15th Jan, one month before the primaries
- For campaign advertizing, spend no more than \$1500
 - Billboards — hard to get enough info over in a billboard
 - Direct mail most effective but very expensive
 - TV (Channel 4) & radio (WILM 1950)
 - Newspaper ... Ads plus letters to the editor

Meeting Reports

- COG - Most recent meeting on 29th Nov
 - 7 town leaders (Mayor Eberhart missing) and 2 county commissioners in attendance (Comm. Demmler throughout, Comm. Manlove early, Comm. Guns late)
 - Presentation by Scott Flanigan on DPW Plans & Priorities
 - Recommend having Scott come to speak at a CLUA Meeting
 - See recent article in Whig
 - Report-back by Al Wein on interviews with towns on their growth plans and challenges — no specifics, just the fact that they had taken place
 - Discussion on MDP Growth Projections and their origins.
 - The data originates at the UDel Center for Applied Demographics, passes through WilMapCo and Cecil County and ends up at MDP
 - Per MDE Planning Director Brigid Kenney, this is a projection based upon status quo and trends, and can be changed if the assumptions can be shown and supported
 - Discussion on MDE letter on water and wastewater capacities
 - MDE conducting a data-gathering exercise with the 9 jurisdictions to fully understand capacities and commitments
 - Next Meeting scheduled for Thurs 24th Jan, at 7 p.m. in Elkton Town Hall, to be preceded by an Econ. Development Commission meeting at 5:30.
- Joint BOCC-PC
 - None scheduled
 - PC subcommittee on clustering / rural character

- Initial meeting held. Each member doing individual research, and will meet again in second Tues in Jan (8th).
 - Still looking at what is the definition of clustering?
 - Discussion re. same
 - There are some good examples of clustering
 - How to get the HOAs to be able to market their open space land to farmers?
 - How to get the good farmland protected
 - Take a look at SR district too — can get really creative
- Comp Plan COC subcommittees
 - Agriculture
 - Good committee. Will be focused on promoting and preserving ag, forestry, organic farming, market gardening
 - Minerals
 - Idea: Look into carbon capture
 - Economic Development
 - Still has not yet met
 - Housing & Rec
 - Infrastructure & Transport
 - Given mission & purpose; only infrastructure item to be considered is transportation
 - Will get clarification on 16th Jan
 - Land Use
 - Given mission & purpose; Develop land use plan & implementation process. Mostly a “get to know you” meeting. Next meeting on Feb 5th at 15:00.
 - Public Services
 - Water Resources
 - Given mission & purpose; powerful and balanced group
 - CLUA subgroup - Ed
 - Current Comp Plan doesn't do a good job. Will need to define what we want and what we don't want.

Old Business

New Business

- Endorsement of letter for Conowingo Dam sediment study
 - Conowingo Dam both the best Best Management Practice (BMP) that the Chesapeake Bay has, and also its greatest threat
 - 3 M tons sediment per year, 2 M tons trapped behind dam
 - Dam will reach capacity in ~10-15 years — no-one knows for sure
 - In 1972, Agnes brought 10 M tons sediment down and scoured another 20 M from behind the dam. 30 M tons in 4 days into the top of the Bay, with devastating effects.
 - Two USGS studies proposed.
 - Bathymetric map of Conowingo Pool to determine where the sediment is and how full the dam is becoming
 - Sediment curves to determine the upstream sources of sediment
 - Total cost ~\$250,000
 - Fed Gov't will carry 33%; PA's Gov. Rendell has committed to a major portion of the balance; MD being asked to contribute.
 - Lower Susquehanna RIVERKEEPER® seeking endorsements to a letter asking elected officials to support the necessary funding
 - CLUA is being asked to add their name to the list
 - Sediment doesn't get its due ... it is as devastating to the marine organisms as carbon is.
 - Motion made, seconded and carried unanimously to add CLUA to the letter's endorsement list

Nomination Committee for January elections

- Mike Burns will serve on the Nominating Committee

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 15, 7:00 p.m., Rising Sun library

Candidate Questionnaires

- 1) What are the best tools for managing growth in Cecil County? Please, at the minimum, comment on each in your answer:
 - a. Transfer of Development Rights Program: Thoughts? Should land outside the growth corridor remain receiving areas?
 - b. What is your position on shared Facilities in the NAR and SAR?
 - c. Impact fees. If you support them, what type (ie. flat fee, tiered or other)?
 - d. APFO. If you support, what elements should be included? Do you believe a 120% education capacity threshold is acceptable?
 - e. Others?
- 2) Do you support a change in the form of Cecil County Government? Why?
- 3) What would you do to improve the Comprehensive Plan?
- 4) Do you support commuter rail service for Cecil County? Why? If so, what should be the funding source?
- 5) What is your stance on community design standards?
- 6) What does the term "property rights" mean to you? Does Cecil County government effectively protect the property rights of those adjacent to development projects?
- 7) Do you believe that storm water collection ponds and cul-de-sacs should be counted as open space? If not, do you support an amendment to the zoning ordinance to change?
- 8) How will you improve the transparency of government while in office? Would you support televised (cable access) commissioner meetings?
- 9) Have you read the report on Green Infrastructure presented to the County Commissioners? How will you protect and sustain it in Cecil County?
- 10) What problems do you see with the makeup and/or enforcement of our subdivision regulations, zoning ordinances or road code? If problems exist, how do you see us correcting each problem?"
- 11) Does Cecil County need to expand the Parks and Recreation Program? If so, how? Would you ever support development of Fair Hill Park?
- 12) Do you think that your current or past business in Cecil County could present a conflict of interest problem for you as a Commissioner? Please explain.

Below you will see the Interview Questions. Our Selection Committee will ask the following questions at your upcoming interview. Please review these questions and be prepared to answer them fully at the interview. You do not need to create written answers for the below questions.

1. Why did you decide to run for County Commissioner?
2. What is your leadership experience?
3. What do you hope to accomplish while in office? What are your goals?
4. The Maryland Department of Planning has projected that in approximately 25 years our population will grow by 60,000 people. As a Cecil County Commissioner, how would you prepare for this?
5. Describe your vision for the County? In the next 4 years? In the next 25 years?
6. Explain where growth should occur, how you would attract it, and how it might be financed?