**Long Branch Partners Meeting Notes**

**March 5, 2020**

**Long Branch Community Center, hosted by Morris Buster, Montgomery County Department of Recreation**

**Notes prepared by Christopher Hinton**

**Officer Glenda Franco (2:43 PM):**

* Third district officer, serving for 15 years, community service officer
* Speaking on crime trends
  + Recent carjacking in Silver Spring
    - Uncommon
    - Uber driver was rear-ended, got out to confront driver, driver brandished a gun, Uber driver ran away
    - When involved in an accident and you get a bad feeling, recommendation is to lock doors and call police, evaluate surroundings
  + Car vandalization is most common crime in Montgomery County
  + Use non-emergency number for non-emergency situations 301-279-8000
  + Unrelated shooting on Quebec terrace recently
    - Failure to report to police is common due to fear of police
    - Police are here to help, not immigration, need reports to solve crimes
    - Need community cooperation
    - Community afraid to answer questions
* Officers started Quebec Terrace initiative last summer to connect with community
* Crime has been decreasing in Quebec Terrace area
* Developing a mentoring program for that area
* Police Department use Nextdoor.com to post information on crime trends as well as positive events happening in the community
  + 5K happening in March
* Mention of a bill in county council about police/community relations and creating “more positive leadership”
  + Officer Glenda says she’s heard of some “heated discussions going on” but nothing concrete
* Question about police department interacting with individuals with disabilities
  + What information should caretakers give police department about interacting with individuals with intellectual disabilities?
  + Officer Glenda mentions educating this population about how to interact with police and general safety
  + Police department receiving training from special education organizations like Kennedy Krieger on interacting with people with special needs

**Community News Items (2:52):**

* **Purple line Construction Update**
  + Maricela Cordova w/ Department of Transportation Montgomery County
    - State project; P3 contract meaning state made partnership comprised of a design builder and a contractor
    - Phase one has begun on Piney branch Rd
      * Storm management and protection of the creek
      * Civil work will begin next year
      * Closing lanes on Piney branch
      * Setting up for next 6-9 months of work; will include:
        + New water line in center of piney branch
        + Sanitary line needs a manhole installed, 20 feet down (will take 3-4 weeks)
        + Gas line relocation on Barron street (will take 2 weeks)
        + Retaining wall in front of apartments across from Barron street, temporary pedestrian walkway to be installed
        + Overhead communications lines to be installed
        + Signals for light rail will be installed in about 6 weeks
    - Phase 2
      * Will begin around Flower Avenue and Arliss St
      * Storm management work will be installed in May/June of this year
      * Arliss St will be closed except for local access
      * On Piney Branch Road, one lane is allowed to be closed going each direction at a time, not more than that
      * Track will be installed, east to west through middle of Piney Branch Road
      * Civil work is excepted by summer of 2021
      * 9-12 month of testing
      * Completed by 2022
    - Some stations will be aerial, some will be ground level
    - Question about professional artists hired for the project
      * Great opportunity for community input in art
      * Can county get residents involved in design?
      * Community outreach completed before contracts with artists finalized
      * Each artist will have a local/regional theme and will speak to cultural community
      * Residents in community need to get together and see if they can be a part of the design
    - Question about blocking entrance to Long Branch Community Center
    - Purplelinemd.com for information
    - Call 311 to get information
* **Long Branch Collective Action for Youth Initiative (LBCAY) (3:06)**
  + CHEER and YMCA-YFS collaboration
  + Convened multi-sector planning committee to develop programming to improve conditions for middle and high school youth
  + YMCA-YFS applied for grant from county council
  + Found that youth outcomes are worse in this community than in surrounding communities
  + Need organizations from business sector, human services sector, faith community, and local government to come together to create a plan and goals to address these outcomes
  + project should last for 9 months
  + Anyone wanting/willing to be involved should email Bruce
* **Housing and community development (3:09)**
  + John Brill; Long Branch visioning committee member
    - Vision committee formed a year ago following Long Branch Festival
    - Purpose was to get insight on what people wanted to see in community, and what they believe needs to be changed
    - This year the festival will be three separate weekend events
    - 82 surveys gathered from that festival
    - Meet every other week with 5-person team
    - Vision is to make sure Long branch is affordable, environmentally sustainable, inclusive, and economically and culturally vibrant
    - Thursday March 12th 7-8:30 every other week, and Friday during the day 1230-2
    - Make sure we can do to minimize displacement and gentrification, make sure people who are here now will still be here in 5 years
    - Prices going up with commercial living spaces, will create issues for community members
* **Office of Community partnerships (Yvonne 3:12)** 
  + Speaking about census 2020
  + Liaison for Montgomery County
  + Long branch is identified as hard to count and historically low count areas
  + Important to get everyone counted with everything going on in the area (purple line etc.)
  + Thousands of dollars, almost 19000, per year for 10 years lost for every person who isn’t accounted for
  + March 12th – invitation for people to complete census
    - Each will have location code
    - Can do by mail, by phone, or online to determine how to be counted
  + Guide to 2020 census passed out @ meeting
  + Reminder letter will be distributed until individual completes census
  + People will not knock on door until end of April mid-May if the household has not completed the questionnaire appropriately
  + NO questions about citizenship
  + Go online and send a message saying you have replied but have not got a response, if you’re looking to be employed for the census
  + Looking for volunteers (high school, college, community members)
    - Training for volunteers
    - Ensure that proper information is being distributed
    - Happy to assist groups or people with any information on how to complete census
    - Will be outside with volunteers in March promoting info about Census
    - [Yvonne.stephens@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Yvonne.stephens@montgomerycountymd.gov)
    - [Shawn.morris@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Shawn.morris@montgomerycountymd.gov)
  + Partnering with libraries and senior centers to provide instrument and to guide people through census
  + CANNOT help people do the census
  + All libraries will act as hub for census
  + Schools can be a place to administer the census
  + Describe to people why the census is important, why they need to complete it
  + Federal Bureau has it in 83 languages
  + Montgomery County only requested it in top 12 languages
  + Census data is invaluable to get grants for community projects like affordable housing
    - Cannot get grants to prove that services are needed if people do not fill out census
  + Renters alliance at silver spring civic center on March 7th at 1030 am
  + Some people cannot read in their native language either
  + For people who file on the phone, when they call, they will be immediately transferred via the 311 service

**Round Robin (3:28):**

* Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee, Claudine Schwebber **(3:30)**
  + Households need to be prepared for coronavirus
    - Pamphlet passed around with general information about emergency preparedness
    - Needs to be translated to other languages
    - 4 major elements
      * Kit
      * Meet up Locations
      * Emergency Contacts
        + One local and one out of the area
      * Everyone
    - Specific coronavirus emergency preparedness
      * If schools close, an approved person has to pick up your child if you cannot
      * Make list of medications; telemedicine may be an option
      * Wash hands frequently, make sure hand sanitizers are 60% alcohol
      * Buy plastic gloves if you’re concerned while out in public
      * CDC website included
* Silver Spring Regional Services Administration, Shawn Morris **(3:36)**
  + Newsletters for community events and one for civic engagement
  + Encouraged to sign up
* Clifton Park Baptist Church – Randi Drewry**(3:37)**
  + Food distribution program started, on 3rd Wednesday of every month
  + Looking for ways to give nonrefrigerated groceries to homeless population
  + Clothing closet on first Saturday of every month from 830-11
* Montgomery Housing Partnership, Amy Bearne, **(3:38)**
  + Long branch 5k, volunteers needed
  + Info for volunteers on Facebook page
  + Discover Long Branch is the Facebook page
  + March 22nd registration at 7 am @garland park
* City of Takoma Park, Landlord tenant mediator for TP **(3:41)**
  + City of Takoma Park is having a clinic this Saturday on how to become a US citizen
  + Assistance for waving fee application among other things (ADD THAT HERE)
* Standby Guardianship **(3:42)**
  + Undocumented parent can name someone to take care of children if they get detained to reduce trauma and stabilize child life
* TESS Community Action Center **(3:44)**
  + Anyone making less that 56000 can get their taxes done for free
  + New parenting classes
* Program manager with Judy Center **(3:45)**
  + Celebrating 20 years of service
* CASA, Hellen Dominguez **(3:45)**
  + Spanish literacy classes
  + Computer literacy
  + Sewing class
  + Acupuncture on Fridays at 10 am
  + English classes levels 1-3a
  + After school program for middle school (grades 7-12)
* Long branch community center director, Morris Buster **(3:48)**
  + Library closing on the 15th
  + Moving some classes form library to community center
  + Seniors at LBCC are concerned about coronavirus
  + Library closed for 9 months
  + No interim location for library
* Wayne Miller with transit
  + Any questions about bus stops, use 311
* CHEER, Vanesa Pinto **(3:53)**
  + Community cleanup on March 21st from 10-12 AM at New Hampshire Estates Elementary School
  + Health program
    - Healthy food access program
    - Expanding to Langley park
    - Not limited to Montgomery County
    - Info for individuals with diabetes
  + Food distribution was planned to happen at Long Branch library, but they are closing
    - New host site needed for pop up pantries
    - Contact Bruce or anyone with cheer
* Montgomery County Community Health Nurse, Pat Wellington **(3:57)**
  + Meeting this morning with county council member
  + Gave info about coronavirus
  + County has all kits for county
  + Takes 8 hours to get results
  + No cases in Maryland
  + Coronavirus can live 2 days on surfaces but can be killed by cleaning products
  + 311 operators trained to give people info about coronavirus
* Montgomery County Public Libraries, Febe Huerzo **(3:59)**
  + No bookmobile
  + Spanish story time will be held at test center
  + Closing next Saturday on the 14th
  + By end of April it will be empty
* Claudine Schwebber **(4:00)**
  + Stomp the bleed training
    - Stopthebleed.org
    - Developed by American council of surgeons
    - Anyone who helps is covered by the good Samaritan law
  + Active assailant training
    - Will be at Takoma Park community center

Bruce **(4:03)** – wrap up

* Next meeting scheduled for June 4th
* CASA volunteers to host