**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
		- 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