

# Cherry Hill Community Coalition

**Minutes – May 15, 2008 [DRAFT]**

**Open Meeting – Topic: Community Coalition Meeting**

*[Adopted TBD]*

## **Community Members/Stakeholders In Attendance:**

- [Sign-In Sheet attached](#)

## **Guests:**

- Mr. Brent Flickinger, Dept. of Planning
- Mrs. Sharon Morgenthaler, Sylvan/Laurette Foundation

**Tonight's Business:** The meeting was led/facilitated by Kim Trueheart.

1. An update from Towson University on the Cherry Hill Learning Zone was 1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda, however they did not provide an update nor did they send a representative.
  - a. A copy of a recent news article regarding a recent visit to Cherry Hill by Congressman - U.S. Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Md., was disseminated for review. Attendees were generally unaware of his visit and the federal earmark of funds for the CHLZ. Attendees were concerned that federal tax dollars were earmarked on behalf of the community without the community being asked or involved in the decision or request. The community is contemplating sending a letter to the congressman noting its displeasure.
  - b. Ms. S. Morgenthaler provided an update on the status of her ongoing 6-month study on preschooler readiness in Cherry Hill.
2. Mr. B. Flickinger provided an update on the status of the Cherry Hill Master Plan as follows:
  - a. He stated that he presented the Cherry Hill Master Plan to the new planning board members and they disagreed with the language agreed upon by the City Law Department and Cherry Hill representatives regarding community benefit agreements. The planners felt that the community is attempting to take unfair advantage of developers by making them commit to a written benefit agreement (extortion – as some would say).
  - b. Several community members were offended and Mr. (Larue Square) stated that the moral dilemma and injustices imposed on the Cherry Hill community historically since its inception are viewed as extortion and are only being partly redressed with the implementation of CBAs and other key elements of the master plan.
  - c. Ms. K. Trueheart proposed that the community be allowed to make its own case before the planning commission. Mr. G. Countess proposed that the presentation prepared by Mrs. B. Samuels (ACLU) be presented to the planning commission and other interest city officials. Mr. B. Flickinger proposed that he would schedule a date prior to the presentation of the Master Plan for the community to brief the planning commission.

- d. Ms. K. Trueheart suggested that the date for the Master Plan hearing should be pushed back to give the community additional time to address the recent changes proposed by city agencies. Mr. Flickinger proposed a new date of June 12<sup>th</sup> (which he subsequently changes to June 23<sup>rd</sup> in an email).
  - e. Ms. J. Gilmore stated that discussions with members of the CHLZ do not satisfy the community's request to meet with the BCPSS local school principals. The community is still waiting for BCPSS to endorse or provide comments on the education section of the master plan.
  - f. Mr. G. Countess noted that portions of the plan agreed upon by HABC and the community were omitted from the last version of the master plan and should be reinserted.
3. Mr. Flickinger stated that the implementation phase for the Middle Branch master plan is awaiting a go ahead by the Mayor's Office.
  4. Mr. Flickinger stated that to stay ahead of potential future Waterview Ave area redevelopment, the community should begin work on updating the Waterview Ave URP in the near future. This is important and should be next on the community's list of actions.
  5. Ms. Trueheart provided an overview of the recent Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities Listening Session held at Harbor Hospital and a list of the environmental injustices expressed by the community during the meeting.
    - a. Ms. Faith ??? suggested that the list should be expanded to include the health issues of numerous residents that may be associated with the injustices.
    - b. Mr. G. Countess stated that the Environmental Justice forums are important and should be attended by community members. The next forum is scheduled for May 22, 2008.
  6. The first meeting of the Middle Branch Friends group is scheduled on May 29, 2008 to begin work on establishing a formal group to protect and maintain local parks.
  7. The Living Classroom Foundation is funding a sailing program for 20 Cherry Hill youth during the last 2 weeks in July. Applications will be available at the Patapsco Recreation Center next week.
  8. A joint communities meeting with Cherry Hill, Westport, Mt. Winans and Lakeland is being proposed by Linda Towe to present unresolved community problems to elected officials/representatives. A planning meeting is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> in Westport and a meeting with Ed Reisinger is scheduled for May 27, 2008. The location and time of each meeting is forthcoming.
  9. Ms. K. Trueheart stated that the Cherry Hill Community Coalition must get better organized. Greg Countess explained the purpose for a steering committee and how the committee can lay out the next steps for the coalition to be presented to a larger community forum for adoption and subsequent implementation. Attendees signed up to join the steering committee which will hold a meeting in the near future.

10. A meeting to review recent proposed changes to the master plan is scheduled for May 26, 2008. This meeting will produce the final community endorsed version of the plan for submission to the planning commission.
  - a. Mrs. Addie Black offered to request permission to use the Senior Manor meeting facility for this meeting. She will provide an update next week.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim A. Trueheart