

Cool Spring Terrace

Cool Spring Terrace Civic Association — CSTCA

Minutes from June 2016 Meeting

Cool Spring Terrace Civic Association Meeting, June 25, 2016

***Note:** These minutes should be considered a draft until they are approved at the next CSTCA meeting on August 27, 2016.*

Officers present: Ted Hull, President; Glenn Kirkland, Vice President; Andrea Kenner, Secretary

Number of attendees: Approximately 20

I. Welcome/Gathering

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m. Special guests included Dinora Hernandez and Elizabeth Chason from the Prince George's County School Board, and County Council Member Deni Taveras.

II. Announcements and Officers' Reports

President Hull announced the selection of Joel Ryerson (lead) and Dennis Chesters (alternate) as the CSTCA's designated representatives on the [Purple Line Community Advisory Team \(CAT\)](#). Dennis Chesters reported that the Washington Post has assigned [Katherine Shaver](#) to follow the development of the Purple Line.

President Hull advised members to start thinking about nominations for the upcoming CSTCA board election, which will be held at the December 2016 meeting.

The minutes from the April 2016 meeting were read and approved.

President Hull gave the treasurer's report: The balance in the CSTCA account stood at \$1599.01 as of the date of the June meeting.

III. Discussion with Representatives from the Prince George's County School Board

Dinora Hernandez and Elizabeth Chason were invited to the CSTCA to explain why the county school board had selected the parkland adjacent to Mother Jones Elementary School for the development of a new middle school, and to discuss the community's concerns with this choice and the possibility of choosing a different location.

According to Ms. Hernandez and Ms. Chason, four sites were originally under consideration. They said that school board held three poorly attended public hearings on the matter in March and April 2016, mentioned that a report about the selection is posted online, and said that they would send a link. (The promised link was never received. However, the Sentinel Newspapers published an article about the hearings and the site selection: [Two new middle schools to come to northern county.](#))

Our guests said that the Mother Jones site was selected because it would make more efficient use of the big soccer field on the site, but more importantly, because the school system already occupies the land and, thus, would not have to pay to acquire it.

They said that a number of the students who will attend the new middle school live in Langley Park and, thus, will need to be bused to the site. A traffic study performed on the site indicated that a new traffic signal will be needed on Adelphi Road to allow school buses to enter directly into the school property without having to drive through the surrounding neighborhoods.

According to our guests, the decision to build on the site has already been made, and the architect has already been selected. Groundbreaking on the site will take place in August 2017, at the earliest.

After the report on the new middle school, meeting attendees discussed grade inflation and concerns that many students are ill prepared for college study.

IV. Updates from County Council Member Deni Taveras

Ms. Taveras summarized the county budget and said that our district received the largest share of the budgeted funds. Ms. Taveras listed a number of approved items on the county budget, which took effect on July 1:

- \$350K to establish a new administrative hearing process. Currently, it can take 6-12 months to resolve property standards violations. The new process was designed to address this problem; Ms. Taveras said that it should be up and running by January 2017.
- \$2M for a new litter removal program. Ms. Taveras said that residents should contact the county whenever trash is not picked up on time. The new trash removal company is fined for every reported violation. Ms. Taveras said that residents can email her Constituent Services

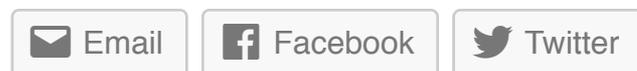
Director, Carolyn Cook (cdcook@co.pg.md.us), with complaints about trash pickup.

- \$13M for the construction of the new Hyattsville Library.
- \$6M for streetlights and signs.
- \$3.2M for a new levee on Ager Road.
- \$1.5M for a new domestic violence safety net program.
- \$13M for a new Purple Line headquarters, which, by agreement, is to be built in Prince George's county.
- \$2M for community colleges.
- \$120K for increased hiring at the 311 call center.

Ms. Taveras also mentioned the county's efforts to combat human trafficking. An article published in the Washington Post on August 16 ([Major regional human-trafficking ring shut down, Maryland prosecutors say](#)) described the result of this effort.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

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ONE THOUGHT ON "MINUTES FROM JUNE 2016 MEETING"



Jon Robinson

on **August 26, 2016 at 9:12 am** said:

It seems the School Board did not do much to inform the community about the hearings on the new middle school location. This is the usual check off the box attitude that the School Board has toward citizen involvement. Why didn't Councilwoman Taveras make sure our civic association was informed? We wouldn't have even known about the school coming were it not for Senator Rossepepe mentioning it at our April meeting. Long after the hearings had been held.

