



Meeting Minutes March 17, 2009

GEDCO Update: The Green House

After a warm welcome by EGLSCA president, Karenthia Barber, the meeting began at 7:30 PM with a presentation by Mitch Posner, the executive director of the Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO). GEDCO is the master developer of Stadium Place, and Mr. Posner's presentation focused on the progress of elder housing on the property. At present, all four existing buildings are operational, and the 340 apartments within those buildings are filled.

Mr. Posner introduced the group to the next phase of the development plan, which calls for the construction of the Green House Residences. The Green House is an innovative model of elder housing that aims to combine the advantages of assisted living facilities with the comforts of a home-like environment. Supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the model has been implemented throughout the U.S., but the Stadium Place building will mark the first Green House residence in Maryland. The GEDCO proposal calls for the construction of a four-story building consisting of a total of 49 beds. Each floor is designed to serve as a single residential unit with 12 individual rooms opening onto a shared common area, or "hearth," including a kitchen where residents' meals are prepared on-site. The Green House will be open to older adults of all income levels, though 60 percent of the 49 beds will be reserved for people who are Medicaid-eligible. Mr. Posner hopes to break ground by this October.

In terms of community input and support, Mr. Posner mentioned several opportunities. First, EGLS residents can support GEDCO's ongoing fundraising campaign to construct the building by contacting their state and city officials. Although Governor O'Malley has included \$4.5 million in the FY2010 Capital Budget for the Green House, public support is needed to ensure that this budget item is passed. The City of Baltimore has committed an additional \$500,000. Second, when GEDCO addresses the city's planning commission, Mr. Posner will request a letter of support from EGLSCA. Third, EGLS residents are invited to attend GEDCO's annual meeting, during which the creator of the Green House model, Bill Thomas, will deliver a keynote address. This meeting will take place on March 26 at 7:00.

For more information, contact Mr. Posner at mposner@gedco.org. Visit GEDCO's website (www.gedco.org) to submit a letter to state officials in support of establishing the Green House residences at Stadium Place.

Neighborhood Water Improvements

Tom Pompa, from the Department of Public Works, discussed the up-coming \$8.2 million water-system improvement project that will begin shortly in Ednor Gardens and Waverly. Working in

one area at a time, teams will install temporary, above-ground waterline systems. They will then drain underground pipes so that they can be cleaned and mortar lined. Next, pipes will be flushed, and once the water is tested for safety, normal service will be restored. The process is expected to take six to seven weeks per area, and approximately one-and-a-half years for the completion of the entire project. Construction is anticipated to occur between 7:00AM and 5:00PM on weekdays.

Residents may be affected by this project in several ways. First, construction may involve temporary interruptions in service, though these are anticipated to be very brief. Second, parking will be restricted in some areas during construction, and roads may be closed to through traffic. Third, residents whose homes are connected to the water main by old, galvanized pipe may experience a blockage of their pipes. Should this happen, residents may contact the project manager for pipe flushing, though technically, any problem with these pipes is the responsibility of the home owner.

In order to minimize inconvenience, the department has made the following commitments. First, residents will be notified by a flier placed on their door of any disruptions in services. Second, an emergency number will be provided for residents to call if they experience problems: 410-879-4133. Residents are advised to use this number instead of 311 to address problems related to this project. Third, streets will be repaired curb-to-curb in the event of trench digging; speed bumps will also be replaced if necessary. Smaller-scale holes will be patched.

For problems or further information, contact:

LaVern Dettman, Supervisor of contractors, 301-931-7400, ldettman@jfcson.com

Jim Revty, Supervisor of contractors, 240-216-1699

Bruce Williams, Baltimore City supervisor, 410-396-3671 (office), 443-449-9363 (cell)

Project emergency number: 410-879-4133

Public Safety Committee Report

- **COP.** Chris Ryon reported that Citizens on Patrol (COP) has had excellent participation since the last meeting. However, many spots need to be filled for the spring. To volunteer, contact Chris at crryon@hotmail.com. Additionally, Jeanne Adams (410-236-0174) continues to lead daytime walking groups on Wednesdays starting at 1207 Lakeside Ave; new walkers are always welcome, and the EGLS team has recently taken a role in getting other neighborhoods involved in the project as well.
- **Block Captain Meetings.** All residents are invited to participate in ongoing block captain meetings. The next meeting will take place April 21 from 7:00-8:30PM in the Community Room of the Venable II Building at Stadium Place. Contact Chris Ryon at crryon@hotmail.com for more information.

Youth and Education Committee

- **Waverly School Volunteer Opportunities.** Community liaisons are needed to work with Waverly School. Contact Joan at stannejoan@yahoo.com or 410-889-0329.
- **Stadium Place Playground Volunteer Opportunities.** Rebuilding is set for May 5-10, and volunteers are needed for building and for providing food to volunteers. Contact Joan to volunteer.

Andover Park Revitalization

Thanks to the efforts of Marie Sliwinski and her team, plans to revitalize Andover Park are moving right along. Community members met with a representative of the Recreation and Parks Department to finalize plans for sidewalks, benches, and playground equipment. The City is now in a bidding process in order to secure a contractor, and construction is anticipated to begin by late summer or early fall. Clearing of trees and brush around the park's breezeway has already been accomplished.

Crime Update

Officer Banks reported that crime is down in EGLS compared to last year. So far in 2009, 23 part 1 crimes have been reported in EGLS and the surrounding areas versus 46 such crimes during the first months of 2008. Ms. Barber reported that efforts are underway to bridge the gap between the Northern and Northeastern police districts so as to further strengthen crime prevention efforts. Also of note, Officer Banks will soon be available to conduct on-site safety surveys of residents' homes.

Refuse and Recycling

The City is currently considering a change in refuse collection known as the "One Plus One" proposal. To save money and encourage recycling, the City Administration is proposing new legislation that would reduce trash collection from twice a week to once a week while increasing recycling collection from once every two weeks to once a week. This legislation would result in two pick up days per week: one trash and one recycling. The program is intended to take effect July 1, 2009.

City officials, including Mary Pat Clarke, are holding a meeting to discuss the proposal on March 24 at 6:30 at Johns Hopkins Eastern campus (formerly Eastern High School).

*****Next EGLSCA Meeting: May 19, 2009*****