GROWTH ACTION NETWORK

Land Wise - Future Strong

Vote FOR charter Amendment C



Vote FOR Charter Amendment C – GAN has been working for several years to strengthen the work of the Planning Advisory Board; this amendment gets part of the way there. It staggers the terms of the PAB members so there is not a wholesale change in membership all at once, and it requires the County Council to confirm the County Executive's appointments to the PAB. This prevents any incoming County Executive from making radical changes to the membership of the PAB and guarantees continuity.
GAN: Vote YES on Charter Amendment C.

Save the date

GAN Annual Membership Meeting

November 17, 7 - 8:30
Friends Meeting House,
351 Dubois Rd,, Annapolis, MD

Save the Date: Nov 17th – The featured speaker at our GAN Annual Membership Meeting will be the incoming County Executive. Both candidates have agreed to hold the date in what will be one of their first public appearances after the election.

Tuesday, November 17th , 7:00-8:30, gather at 6:30,
Annapolis Friends Meeting House, 351 Dubois Road, Annapolis

Legislation corner

At the County Council....

Campaign Disclosures and Ethics Passes:
GAN has long supported better disclosure of the financial relationships between developers and county officials and was happy to support Councilman Volke's Bill 65-26 to make financial relationships between development applicants and elected officials

more transparent. It mandates a 12-month disclosure period, though we would have preferred 24 months and the fines for violators are too low. The **bill passed unanimously** and we hope the next Council strengthens it further.

Updating the County's Development Code Fails: Even as we testified several times in favor of Bill 61-26 to provide much needed updates to Article 18 of the county code, almost 100 people testified against the bill over two Council meetings, some with strong emotional arguments against elements that weren't actually in the bill. The staff of OPZ had been working on this bill for over a year, including outreach to GAN for our feedback and suggestions. Overall, the bill did a good job of bringing the code – not seriously overhauled since 2005 – up to date. The Council worked closely with the Farm Bureau and food truck owners to address their concerns. But social media spread misinformation causing anxiety and concern among some farmers and small business owners, and **the Council voted it down unanimously**. We hope that Councilwoman Fiedler follows through on her commitment to further improve the bill early in the Council's new term, and that OPZ figures out how to include community outreach and consultations with stakeholders to increase support and understanding of the bill.

The Concept Plan Bill Passes: GAN opposed the administration's Bill 70-26 which creates an option for developers to submit a "Concept Plan," based on a checklist created by OPZ. It would streamline the application process which GAN supports. But the bill specifies almost no deadlines within the Concept Plan phase, and has no requirements for what must be included in a Concept Plan. In addition, the compressed timeline for Final or Site Development Plans is concerning because it could lead to less time for substantive comments from the public, and decreased time for the County and State reviewers to evaluate the plan, which could pose risks to both the County and the public. **It passed on a 5-2 vote**.

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