



Citizens win on land use issue



The Anne Arundel County Council got it mostly right at this past Monday's meeting, and citizens are the winners.

As the County embarks on its once-in-a-decade comprehensive rezoning exercise, the Council wanted to reduce the time that neighbors will be notified when rezoning is proposed as part of Comprehensive Rezoning. GAN argued for the original 14-day notification window, the Council considered 7, and agreed on 10, due in large part to the extraordinary citizen outreach to the Council in the past week.

The shortened time frame allows more citizens to submit rezoning requests and the Council more time to consider them, but it reduces the time that neighbors will know about and can respond to requests for rezoning.

They also eliminated the notification burden on owners whose homes were proposed for rezoning but which they did not want.

This is the first time that the Council has had to comply with a Charter amendment passed by voters in 2022 requiring notification of proposed zoning changes in Comprehensive Rezoning. There has been a lot of honest learning by doing, including in this matter.

And, there are truly competing interests here – the rights of the land owner versus the rights of the neighbors and community -- which the Council appears to be attempting to navigate.

The Council has assured us that these rules are designed to help “Harry and Harriet Homeowner” and that developers do not benefit from them. The Council has asked citizens to trust them. Most of them have engaged in dialogue with GAN and other stakeholders on this issue. That’s a really good sign at the beginning of this 3-year process of Comprehensive Rezoning.

GAN will continue to press to restore the 14-day notice period in the remaining 6 regions, and for a better communication process for citizens that will support it.

But for now, the citizens spoke up, were heard, the Council responded, democracy worked, and the citizens win this round on land use.

[Save the date](#)

Community Association Summit, June 1, 10 am, in Millersville



GAN is working with the County's Community Engagement and Constituent Services office to hold a summit meeting of community/homeowners association leaders on June 1, 10:00a-1:15p at the Max Frye Utility Ops center in Millersville. The session will have a focus on stormwater management, governance, and compliance by HOAs and community associations. Watch for more soon...

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