

**Greater Wilton Woods Citizens' Association Meeting--Minutes
July 20, 2004**

Sam opened the meeting by welcoming the Morgan Group, a developer which plans to develop the land near Penn Daw Shopping Center. This includes land bordered by School St., N. Kings Hwy, and Poag St. The Morgan Group stated that this project is still in the planning stages, and that Dana Kauffman suggested that they speak to the community about their plans. Below are basic facts and details:

- land area is 4.5 acres, comprised of eight different parcels
- developer wishes to focus on quality
- proposal is for a four story brick front building:
 - first floor 12,000 square feet for retail (some ideas include coffee shop, break shop, dry cleaning)
 - 300 upscale apartments on top three floors
 - internal parking garage, accessible from Poag St.
 - internal courtyards

Questions from the membership included topics such as how traffic would be affected, where retail parking would be, and whether the developer would include proffers. The Morgan Group responded that VDOT would do a traffic study, and that the developer always provides for the necessary road changes. Retail parking would be in the internal garage, as well as limited parallel parking on N Kings Hwy. and possibly on Poag St. One member suggested providing for traffic calming on School St. as a proffer. The developer responded that they would consider that.

Some residents expressed concern about the effects on the community that such development could cause: increased traffic in residential areas, unmanageable traffic in and out of Poag St from Kings Highway, and overall effects on county services, such as schools.

Timing of this project is at least two years before construction would begin. Interaction with the county to receive permits and related approvals must be completed first.

The Morgan Group thanked the membership for its time.

Fred Haynes of the GWWCA Government Advisory Committee spoke briefly on the growth of gangs in our county. He provided an essay on his research into immigration and its influence on gangs, and solicited the membership to express their thoughts and to help determine whether this is an appropriate subject for the GWWCA to address. Copies of this essay are available on the website.

Dana Kauffman joined the meeting to speak on a variety of issues, summarized below:

- many thanks to Melissa Lakey for her leadership of the Shaffer Drive traffic calming task force. The traffic calming devices should be installed by late fall, and the multi-way stop sign at Shaffer Drive and Bayliss Place should be installed within three weeks.

- The county is studying how to fix the alignment of the street light at Florence and Telegraph Rd since the realignment of the intersection (it no longer provides illumination for the intersection). Moving a street light costs \$80K, so other solutions are being looked at.
- Telegraph Road work through the Wilton Woods area is not even on the six year plan, because budgets are so tight.
- A proposed traffic light at Wilton and Telegraph Roads was turned down, but there are plans for a traffic light at The Parkway and Telegraph Rd.
- The Van Dorn St extension to Telegraph Rd should be complete NLT 12/04. Paving should begin in September.
- bus service on Rte 1 and Telegraph Roads. is being improved. Supervisor Kauffman spoke of the need to make bus service one which people choose over cars, not just something people use who don't have other choices.
- Ft. Belvoir is the largest single employer in Fairfax County. Sup. Kauffman spoke of the need to consider this and how Belvoir affects traffic in our community.
- The developer that has the Chuck E Cheese property now has the Crabhouse, Pizza Hut, Wendy's, and the Ranch House under contract for development. Now is the time to be involved, with everything in the planning stages. **(note: GWWCA still needs a representative to attend the county Land Use Committee meetings.)**
- Gang activity—the violence currently is mostly gang-on-gang, but if allowed to mature, gangs become drug havens and much more dangerous. We need to think of ways to 1) get officers out of cars and into the communities and 2) provide alternatives to kids who are potential targets for gang membership. An example of proactive leadership is at Crestwood School in Springfield, where the principal made the facility a 24 hour facility for the community.
- There was discussion of needed changes in the fire code, in light of the tragic fire in Kingstowne a few weeks ago that killed three people.
- A member spoke up about the unsafe driving conditions at Telegraph Rd and Pershing Dr near Eisenhower, where people exiting the Beltway at high speeds fail to yield as required. Another member expressed concern that the realignment of Telegraph and Florence has made it even more dangerous to turn south onto Telegraph, and that a light would increase safety more there than at The Parkway. Sup. Kauffman took notes on both of these comments and said he'd look into them. There are plans to tear down Landmark Mall. The anchor stores will remain, and new stores and some residential units will be built. Sup. Kauffman spoke of the need to make similar updates to Springfield Mall.
- A resident of Beech Tree Drive commented that his street and Holly Tree Dr. always seem to lose power more often and for longer than the surrounding streets. Sup. Kauffman said it sounds like a transformer problem and that he would look into that.

Delegate Sickles, who attended the meeting as a member, announced that he would have a town meeting at the Government Center at 12 noon on Saturday, August 7. The topic will be Human Services.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.