

Takoma Park Health Services Impact Committee

Minutes: November 2, 2006

Adopted xxx 2006.

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm at the Takoma Park Community Center

Present were committee members John Conger, Trevor Delafield, Seth Grimes, Frederick Hoeflinger, Pat Loveless, Kermit Netteburg, Lois Wessel, and Joanne Wu, City liaison Venita George, and Mulindi Johnson, a St. Albans Student and member of Boy Scout Troop 544.

Venita distributed:

- An agenda.
- Draft minutes from the October 4, 2006 meeting.
- An excerpt provided by City Manager Barb Matthews from a WAH presentation concerning the Long Branch health center.
- Montgomery County solicitation materials for Community Health Improvement Consulting Services.
- Montgomery County solicitation materials for a Washington Adventist Hospital Relocation Study.

Seth read the **September 20 minutes**. The group corrected them and then voted to adopt them.

Seth reported on the **Columbia Union College vote against turning control over to Adventist Healthcare**. Kermit said that there would be a November 17 "constituency" vote but that it would be unlikely to overturn the college vote.

Seth reported on the **county healthcare forum** that he attended. Fred was there also and mentioned George Leventhal's remarks that noted the value of immigrants to the county.

Venita said that quorum requirements are up to the committee. Pat moved that **a quorum of 51% of committee members must be present for business to be conducted**. Kermit seconded and the motion passed.

Lois nominated Drew as co-chair and Seth nominated Lois as the second co-chair. There was a discussion of the co-chairs' roles. The nominations passed by acclamation: **Drew Sommers and Lois Wessel were elected HSIC co-chairs**.

Lois took over conducting the meeting and started a **discussion of the committee's mission**.

Venita read from the council resolution establishing the committee and then the committee looked at reference material, Jere Stocks' letter to Cowdry of the Maryland Healthcare Commission. We discussed issues related to the number of beds and HIPAA requirements leading to the need for additional single rooms. We discussed **WAH's service area and patient demographics** and decided to ask WAH for figures directly including:

- Who uses the hospital?
- Where are they from?

- For what mode of services (e.g., inpatient, outpatient, emergency)?
- For what type of services (e.g., heart)?
- The financial burden of bad debt and indigent care.

The group further discussed **statistics to gather from WAH**. And Lois suggested bringing in someone at the next meeting to present status of healthcare county wide.

The group came back to the mission statement and noted that its not our task to look at site-use questions. We referred back to the notes in the October 4 minutes related to the committee's mission. After discussion, the group arrived at **mission statement points**:

- Assess present healthcare needs of Takoma Park and nearby communities.
- Inventory and review services offered by WAH and other providers.
- Evaluate the impact of WAH's relocation and leave-behind needs.
- Make recommendations regarding city advocacy.

We would leave the “Takoma Park community” imprecise in our **mission statement** and define it as we go along. Lois will write up the mission statement and send it to the group and we will finish and approve it at the next meeting.

The group discussed **whom we want to hear from**:

- Regarding WAH, we would get documents first – Venita could manage a document “shopping list” – and then seek to reach out to the hospital. The group would build a relationship with WAH President Jere Stock to engage him and get his buy-in to helping with our work. We would seek his support to establish an on-going dialog with the hospital. In a meeting, which we would keep informal, we would ask him to share his vision and bring materials to the group that he thinks are appropriate.
- Prince George's County.
- Montgomery County Health Department.
- Primary Care Coalition.

The group discussed on the need to create an **activity schedule covering the committee's lifespan**, through early 2008 per the council's charter. We would focus most closely on the period through June 30, 2007. JoAnne agreed to draft a timeline. Lois will put together names for informational meetings.

Venita will arrange for an area on the city's **Web site** where committee materials will be posted.

The committee then adjourned its third meeting.

Prepared by Seth Grimes.