

Fair Access Committee Minutes
January 15, 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall, Poolesville

Attending were Derek Longbrake, Chuck Copeland, Sarah Paksima and Nancy Kidd

Updates - Link noted that the Muster Email campaign generated more than 1000 total emails. He had heard from members that they were being received in support of the Community Center and the Pool Bubble. He also said that Plenty magazine had asked for an article about public transportation in the Ag Reserve and Western County as members will recall. He sent a draft in and they have confirmed it was received. Edits are now under way but should be published in Plenty in the Spring. The video shorts started going out in December and will conclude at the end of January. Topics include everything from a thank you to Council members to a push for better maintenance of rural roads.

Budget Process – Link noted that the CIP budget for 2027 was released and the community center is now a project with a projected capital spending program and money to be appropriated this coming year for design of the community center in 2028. Outyears funding for construction remains to be approved and we will need to keep the pressure on to ensure the money is approved in the future. The testimony for the CIP is on February 9 and 10 and we will be reaching out to WUMCO, UPN, PACC, and Poolesville Seniors to get them to testify as well. The operating budget will be submitted on March 15th with testimony the first two weeks of April.

Derek and Sarah agreed that we are entering a new phase in the next year or two where we will be pushing for funding for programming and staff for new facilities like the Community Center and the pool. Link said he would draft up a “transition budget framework” that would lay out the case for such support but also make it clear that while county programming and funding is needed and welcome, it should be done in clear alignment with local non-profits like WUMCO and Poolesville Seniors who already know and provide local services and programming. We need to ensure that the work of these groups is not undermined by the county.

Debate Scheduling – Link noted that the County Executive, At Large Candidates, and a possible Board of Education debate is in the works. County Executive Debate – March 23rd, 6:30 to 8:00 PM; At Large Debate – April 27th, 6:30 to 8:00 PM (Splitting Into Two Parts); Possible Second At Large debate on May 10th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM