

**Town of Chevy Chase
Long-Range Planning Committee**

Minutes of Jan. 18, 2007

7:30 p.m. –Town Hall

Tina Coplan, minute taker

Members Attending: Pat Burda, Kathy Strom, Town Council Liaison; Stephanie Brown; Tina Coplan; Virginia Ceaser; Tamara Harris; David Lublin; Diane Mooney; John Navratil

Members Absent: Tillman Stirling

Handouts:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of December 7, 2006, meeting
3. Long-Range Planning Committee Member Contact Sheet
4. Open Space: Issues for Committee Review
5. Final Long -Range Planning Committee Mission Statement submitted to Town Council 1/11/07
6. Email from Dave Walton to Pat Burda regarding mission statements
7. Montgomery Sentinel article (Dec. 12, 2006) by Jim Humphrey
8. Governance Study
9. Email from Judith McGuire to Pat Burda regarding Climate Protection Committee talks
10. Town site map and development list

Call to Order: Pat Burda convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes of the December 7, 2006 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Mission Statement: The Council will be making comments on all committee mission statements and our committee agreed to hold off making any additional adjustments until we have received comments from the Council. The group reviewed the other committee statements submitted to date.

Strategic Planning Process: The Council had a working session with the Visioning Committee and has asked each Standing Committee to review the projected dates for tasks assigned to them and to get suggested changes/modifications to the Council prior to the February Council meeting. Pat will do this with Kathy for our committee. LRP will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the plan and will discuss developing a procedure for doing that at a future meeting.

Request by Climate Protection Committee: The LRP Committee agreed to cosponsor talks with the Climate Protection Committee on residential green architecture. Virginia Ceaser will be LRP's liaison with that Committee.

Development Issues:

1. Seven projects that have requested zoning variances east and west of Wisconsin Ave. were discussed: 7001 Arlington Rd., 8011 and 8015 Old Georgetown Rd., 4915 Hampden La., Air Rights Hotel on Waverly, Auburn Ave. & Norfolk Ave. SW Corner, 4851 Rugby Ave., Bethesda Ave. & Woodmont Ave. (Thyme Square). Possible development along Connecticut Ave. also was noted.

David noted that the Bethesda Master Plan was revised to allow higher density in the Woodmont Triangle. He also pointed out that the plan generally allows higher density closer to Metro with a transition stepping down to residential (R-60) zoning. How to protect that buffer between commercial and residential, maintain vigilance regarding the master plan vision, identify projects that the Council should take action on, and execute strategies that gain developer support were discussed. Suggested interim solutions include finding out more and earlier about zoning variance applications and deadlines for participating as well as monitoring progress; encouraging as many Town residents as possible to submit public comments opposing projects; and developing guidelines to determine which projects merit Council response. At the next LRP Committee meeting, Jim Humphrey will talk about how to pick battles.

2. Assignments: David will learn developer-negotiating background by talking with Mier Wolf. He and John will identify variance requests, placed on a map and color-coded grid. John also will look into the status of the county building moratorium. Tina will contact a Chevy Chase Village resident to find out about Friendship Heights' commercial development.

3. Other assignments: Stephanie and Tina will review historic preservation materials. Everyone should stay current on development issues in the *Gazette* and Montgomery County section of the *Washington Post*.

Open Space Study: Discussion of the larger project was tabled until the March meeting due to time constraints, but the group did review the history of the Town with the 4-H center.

Governance Study: The Council has asked our committee to undertake a governance study, looking at questions of Council workload, terms of office and compensation, and electing a mayor by popular vote rather than Council rotation.

Assignment: Diane will work with a subcommittee (David, Stephanie, Virginia and Pat) to take on the project. She will come to the next meeting with a proposal for how to proceed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

