

Town Of Chevy Chase
LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, February 15, 2010

6:30 to 8:30p.m.

Minutes by John Murtagh

Attending: Pat Burda, Karen Depew, Mary Anne Hoffman, Sharon Light, Russ Powell, Jim Roy, Tina Coplan, Steve Seidel, John Murtagh

Not in attendance: Charles Duffy, Leslie Hill and John Midlen

Recommendations and Discussion for Implementing Ideas from Brainstorming Session

Tina Coplan presented a recap of the January brainstorming session that she and Leslie Hill worked on. The committee had determined that this outreach should be politically neutral and that we should “jazz it up” to attract people’s attention, especially to engage younger people and families in the Town. After discussion, Mary Anne Hoffman recommended that we do two forums inviting candidates running for County Council: one in the spring with the District 1 candidates only and a second in the fall with the at-large candidates. It was agreed that we invite surrounding communities to participate. The committee had also recommended running a series on government in the Forecast, as well as educational outreach in other ways.

Tina volunteered to work on the forums/outreach along with Leslie. Charles Duffy might also be another volunteer for the committee.

Border Development Update

Pearl St. Development: Steve Seidel updated the committee on the Pearl Street development. He, Pat Burda and Jim Roy met with the developer on February 10th to review the initial plan. The plan was not consistent with the Master and Sector plans, so it was recommended that we submit a letter to the Montgomery County Planning Board stating our concerns.

Pearl St. Development: Steve Seidel updated the committee on the 7300 Pearl Street development. Pat Burda and he had met with the developer on February 10th to review the initial plan. The developer has since met individually with residents (including Jim Roy) from the four houses directly bordering the proposed project. Pat and Steve have also met jointly with these town residents. The proposed project would directly impact Town properties and raises a number of important issues regarding its consistency with the Bethesda Sector plan. Jim, Pat and Steve were going to follow-up with a meeting with staff from the planning board and possibly draft a letter from the Town Council to the developer and planning department staff.

It was decided a small group of volunteers would monitor County activity on zoning. Karen Depew, John Murtagh, Steve Seidel and Jim Roy will meet to develop a plan for monitoring these activities.

Purple Line

Mary Anne Hoffman reported that the Town Council has written the State asking them to reconsider the plan to move the Trail to the north side of the tracks and has asked the Planning Board not to amend the Master Plan as to the Trail location. Mary Anne indicated that she was pleased with the turnout for the public meeting of with about 25 participates and 28 emails.

Chevy Chase Elementary School Update

Russ updated the committee on the expansions being proposed at the School. He reported that there will be a series of meetings for the community. It was decided that since the Land Use Committee has expressed interested in this area and since the demands on Long Range Planning are going to be increasing that we let the Land Use Committee take the lead on this issue.

Book Discussion: "Wrestling With Moses"

Jim Roy shared with the Committee on the book, Wrestling With Moses about urban renewal planning in New York. Jim shared 8 points that he thought were of interest to the work of this committee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50.