

## Town of Chevy Chase Long Range Planning Committee

Minutes of May 17, 2007

7 p.m. Town Hall

**Members Attending:** Stephanie Brown, Pat Burda, Virginia Ceaser, David Lublin, Kathy Strom

**Members Absent:** Tamara Harris, Diane Mooney, John Navratil

### Handouts

- Minutes of April 19
- Agenda
- Purple Line Functional Master Plan: Purpose and Outreach Strategy Report  
Montgomery County Planning Department
- Proposed governance questions for upcoming former mayors meeting

**Call to order:** Pat Burda convened the meeting at 7:10. The minutes of April 19 were approved.

**New Discussions:** Attorney Julia Miller with the National Trust was asked by the Long Range Planning Committee to come and present an overview of National Register designation. Julia gave a brief overview. Tina Coplan will undertake additional research on the National Register and report back to the committee as how this tool may help preserve the Town's character in support goals articulated in the Town's Strategic Plan.

### Development and Other Updates

Governance Study: Presenting news of the governance study, Stephanie Brown said a meeting planned at her house would bring together former mayors (Bill Hudnut, Dennis Wood, Jane Lawton), two current Council members (Linna Barnes, Mier Wolf), and Scott Fosler (former town chair before the mayor switch). The agenda will be focused on the two primary issues: benefits/weaknesses of the current mayor selection system and compensation of council members.

Annual Meeting Report: Pat Burda mentioned that the reception for her committee report at the Town's annual meeting was especially strong in response to her discussion of upcoming development in Bethesda. Audience members also commended the committee in general on their work to date.

### Development

- Pat and David attended a Montgomery County Park & Planning Department open meeting about the proposed amendment to the county's growth policy. They learned that proposed policy changes would not change the pace of development. David spoke up at that meeting about controversial traffic and air rights issues in Bethesda and that the original growth plan is still fine if it were enforced.
- Regarding progress on Lots 31 and 31A, the Town has hired a traffic consultant and a meeting is scheduled for June 11 with a small group of developer, county and Town representatives. Among issues of concern: the impact on Town traffic and overflow parking resulting from closing Woodmont Avenue for two years, and issues around reducing the existing road from 4 to 2 lanes after building is completed.
- Strategies for monitoring development at the Pier 1 site were discussed. Suggestions included talking with people who attend the neighboring church and taking brownies to county development employees.

### Purple Line

- Pat suggested that everyone on the committee attend the Town's public meeting on June 6, when Mike Madden will made a presentation before Town residents comment.
- MCPPC met to consider authorizing staff to undertake a study of the Purple Line.
- The Gazette reported comments from Gov. O'Malley that he prefers a subway system for the Purple Line. The Gazette quoted him saying, "Can you imagine if people 30 years ago, 40 years ago, said, 'We want a Metro system, but it has to be above ground and fast bus'?" ... "What ... kind of region would we have?"

### MCPPC Outreach

Pat read an announcement that MCPPC would like to foster communications by sending staff representatives to talk with community groups. A fall series was proposed for the Town with a different speaker each month.

**Potential New Members:** Bruce Douglas asked to join the committee after hearing Pat's report. Charles Duffy is still a potential and valued possible addition.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35.

