

**TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
Long-Range Planning Committee
Minutes of May 18, 2009 Meeting**

Mary Anne Hoffman, notetaker

Attending: Steve Seidel (co-chair), Pat Burda (Council Liaison), Karen Depew, Charles Duffy, Mary Anne Hoffman, Brenda Lizzio, John Navratil, and John Midlen.

Steve Seidel convened the meeting at 6:40 p.m. April minutes were approved.

Committee Moving Forward

Steve Seidel announced that he and Tina Coplan have agreed to co-chair the Long-Range Planning Committee until Fall 2009, and that former chair Pat Burda, elected to the Town Council on May 5, will succeed David Lublin as the Council's liaison to the committee.

Purple Line Next Steps

Pat Burda reported that she and David Lublin would testify before the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Transportation Planning Board on May 20, emphasizing the Town's position on Bus Rapid Transit as the most promising Purple Line transit alternative. Town representatives hope to meet with selected elected officials to continue making the case for Bus Rapid Transit before the Governor makes his final decision on the preferred local Purple Line transit alternative.

The Governor is expected to announce the State's preferred alternative as early as June, after which the State sends its final assessment of that alternative's environmental impacts to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the FTA issues a record of decision. Burda outlined several options the Town could pursue if the Governor's preferred alternative is transit on the Capital Crescent Trail and invited discussion on the best ways to inform the community about these options and to seek residents' opinion on what the Town's next steps, if any, should be. The committee agreed to recommend that the Council hold one or more informational meetings outlining the Town's actions on the Purple Line to date, options going forward and approximate costs for each option, followed by a public hearing several weeks later where residents can formally state their views on what the Town's future actions should be. Committee members acknowledged that summer is not the ideal time for public meetings but that the State/Federal decision making schedule makes June and July meetings necessary if Town residents are to be kept informed and heard.

Bethesda Development Update

Steve Seidel reported on the following Bethesda developments:

Former Ritz Camera location at Woodmont Ave. and Elm Street: The Equinox Sports Club development under way at this location is considered "standard development" – that is, consistent with what is allowed under the existing zoning, and so no variance or hearings are required.

Exxon site on Wisconsin Ave.: No plans have been filed for a development in this space.

Redevelopment of 2nd District Police Station: County Police have reached an agreement with the developer at Montgomery and Wisconsin Avenues, who either will build a new police station as part of the development or build a new station in the Woodmont Triangle area.

Woodmont East: Pat Burda testified recently about Town concerns about the proposed bicycle crossing at Woodmont East. The Woodmont East plan was approved, but the bike crossing issue was not resolved since it is a County road.

Elm Street Park

Pat Burda announced that the Town has received the first \$10,000 of the \$20,000 for Elm Street Park playground improvements, pledged by developer JBG. Work is expected to be completed in late 2009 or early 2010.

County Issues

Steve Seidel reported on the presentation he attended on the proposed new County growth policy, featuring Montgomery County's new planning director, Rollin Stanley. Stanley reportedly wants to accommodate redevelopment and "the growth that's going to take place in the county." Seidel observed that at some point, the Town may want to weigh in with comments about this growth policy.

Montgomery County Council member Marc Elrich has offered to speak to the Long-Range Planning Committee about his proposal for a county-wide Bus Rapid Transit network. The committee agreed to invite Town residents to attend Elrich's presentation as well. The meeting was tentatively set for Monday, June 15, contingent on Elrich's schedule.

4-H Site Redevelopment

Pat Burda announced that several LRP Committee members will meet with 4-H officials to address Town concerns regarding plans for redevelopment of the 4-H Headquarters site.

Chevy Chase Elementary School

LRP Committee member John Navratil will monitor the capacity review of four schools including Chevy Chase Elementary School being planned by Montgomery County Public Schools to determine future space needs.

Review of Town's Strategic Plan

Pat Burda and Karen Depew said they would meet with Town Manager Todd Hoffman to review the Town's Strategic Plan prior to the June 10 Council meeting, looking at the plan's implementation and identifying emerging trends that could affect the Town.

Next meeting of Long-Range Planning Committee featuring County Council member Marc Elrich was tentatively set for Monday, June 15.

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