

Town of Chevy Chase  
Long-Range Planning Committee  
Minutes of July 24, 2008  
6:30 p.m. Town Hall

Tina Coplan, notetaker

*Attending:* Pat Burda (Chair), Tina Coplan, Bruce Douglas, Charles Duffy, Mary Anne Hoffman; David Lublin, Steve Seidel

*Absent:* Tammy Harris, John Navratil, Marty Saggese

*Visiting:* Karen Depew and Andy Freimuth

I. Pat Burda convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and the minutes were approved.

II. *Discussion of committee*

Pat Burda noted that new residents are interested in joining the committee. She introduced the two visitors, both prospective members. A change of regular meeting dates was recommended, since David Lublin attends another meeting on the same day each month. No specific regular date was fixed.

III. *Bethesda Development*

1. New tracking system

Steve Seidel developed a tracking system to identify projects under committee watch. The chart will be updated as projects move forward. He will circulate the proposed chart to committee members for comment. The charts will reside in the Town office for residents to view and for updating by the Town staff. The chart can be posted on the website with updates in the Forecast.

2. Definition of Green Space ZTA

The Town has submitted comments on the proposed definition of Green Space.

3. Bethesda Bikeways

Meetings have been held to speed up implementing a street bike path that would redirect bikes away from the tunnel and onto Bethesda Ave. between Wisconsin and Woodmont Aves. This would require removing existing parking and trees. It would be especially dangerous during construction of Woodmont East and Lots 31/31a. The Town will submit written comments to this proposal.

4. Woodmont East

Because of the economic downturn, the hotel and bridge above the tunnel originally planned for this site will be eliminated and replaced with other construction. An advisory group will determine community goals for the park; water features are not possible. Improvements to Elm Street Park are under consideration as agreed to by the Woodmont East developer. Cost precedents for similar projects will be looked into.

#### 5. Misc.

Steve Seidel noted that Pier 1 is moving slowly and a relatively small condo development underway at Woodmont Triangle won't be monitored by the committee.

#### IV. *Purple Line*

MD Transportation Secretary Porcari sent a letter in response to SSE report. A meeting is scheduled with him, Mike Madden and other elected officials or their staffs and SSE for August 26th.

A county report raised cost estimate questions about the State's projected Purple Line numbers. Budget estimates for the high-end light rail grazes the maximum allowable cost to be considered for federal funding. Both the Purple Line Jones Bridge Rd. alignment and Corridor Cities Transitway bus rapid transit alternatives are well below.

The Jones Bridge Road community will be invited to a meeting with SSE on August 26 to discuss the bus rapid transit along that route.

*Meeting was adjourned 9:30.*