

Town of Chevy Chase
Long Range Planning Committee
Minutes of October 27, 2008
6:30 Town Hall

Karen Depew, notetaker

Attending: Pat Burda (chair), David Lublin (Council Member), Tina Copland, Karen Depew, Brenda Lizzio, John Navratil, John Midlen, and Steve Seidel

Pat convened the meeting at 6:30 and minutes from Sept 15, 2008 were approved.

I Bethesda Development Update

Bethesda Bikeways—Pat reported that she heard that the Bethesda Ave portion of the bikeway project was on hold yet the County would like to complete the section from the Capital Crescent trail to Wisconsin Ave. In order to do so, it needs the Town's permission to use TOCC right of way along 47th St. The committee will recommend to the council this project should be put on hold until the entire bike path could be completed at one time.

Elm St Park—JBG contacted the Town about the possibility of making improvements to Elm Street Park beyond what is called for by the County.

Woodmont East—Karen updated the group on the progress of the developer. She confirmed that the hotel would be replaced by office space. Phase 2 was on hold. There would be a 6 story pavilion for retail space and 7 additional stories for office space. Public use space has been increased by 4,000 sq ft with a 12 ft bike path. JGB was hoping to file project plan, preliminary plan amendments and site plan in mid-Oct. The hearing would probably be in April 2009 with a staff report available 3 weeks prior to the hearing. Earliest start date for phase 1 would be Qtr 1 2010.

Metro 4, Pier 1, USPS site and McDonald's Site—Steve Seidel reported no changes.

Lot 31/31A—Steve shared with the group that JGB reported it was on hold indefinitely.

Bethesda Police Dept—Brenda shared an article from the Gazette that the Police were looking for a developer for the site that would ideally include space for the police dept.

II Purple Line

Pat opened up discussion on Town strategy for responding to the DEIS report. She informed the committee that the Council had decided to interview law firms to assist in preparing our formal response.

Committee also discussed a strategy for preparing for the Tuesday, November 18 MTA public hearing at the 4-H center. The group agreed that a postcard should be mailed to everyone in the town urging citizens to participate. John Midlen will draft the postcard. Pat will write a summary of the Town's position for the Town website. She will also help Mayor Strom to prepare for the Town's testimony.

In the future, we may need to form a possible advisory committee to prepare for talking directly to the State about the issue.

III New Projects

Wisconsin Ave traffic issue—an e-mail was sent to David about difficulties making a left hand turn from south Wisconsin onto Willow St. The intersection was often blocked. The committee agreed the matter should be referred to Public Services committee.

Town Survey—As of Oct 27, there were 260 responses. When the survey is complete, we will review the section asking for Town priorities.

Aging in Place—Ann Wild is chairing a subcommittee within Community Relations to investigate helping older residents with remaining living in the town.