

**Town of Chevy Chase**  
**Long Range Planning Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, November 16, 2009**  
**6:30 to 8:25 p.m.**

Attending: Karen Depew, Mary Anne Hoffman, Co-Chairs; Pat Burda, Council Liaison; Tina Coplan, Charles Duffy, Leslie Hill, Sharon Light, John Midlen, John Murtagh, Russ Powell, Jim Roy, Steve Seidel

Mary Anne Hoffman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Tina Coplan substituted as note taker for Charles Duffy, who will pick up in May.

Growth and Zoning Forum: Karen Depew summarized the Town-sponsored October 26 forum to discuss the County's growth policy. It brought together an authoritative panel and full attendance from Town residents and the broader community. She said other communities were very supportive of the event and facility. Suggestions were proposed for possible improvements to future forums, including raising the speakers on a platform for better viewing, explaining acronyms and allowing more time for audience questions.

The committee determined to continue its leadership role in bringing communities together by hosting possibly two or three a year. Topics might include a political debate for at-large candidates in the 2010 elections. It was decided that committee members would bring suggestions for topics and speakers to the next meeting.

Growth Policy and Commercial Residential Zone: Pat Burda gave an overview of the county's policy of reassessing growth policy infrastructure every two years, and reported that the County Council recently voted not to redefine allowable traffic and school capacity as part of the current reassessment.

Karen Depew described in general terms the proposed change to the zoning code with the creation of a Commercial Residential (CR) Zone. The County's overall objective with all changes is to attract higher density around transit. The CR Zone would allow height increases under certain circumstances of up to 300-feet high—50 percent higher than under current guidelines—and an increase in FAR. In addition, new master plans are underway for White Flint and other communities. Discussion followed about when and how the community should weigh in.

Purple Line: Pat Burda reported on a state-hosted community focus meeting for community leaders. Two alarming notes were the announcement that construction could be phased—with the Bethesda-Silver Spring connection probably first in line—and that train speed would reach 45 miles per hour. She also noted early stages of discussions with other entities are underway to establish a coalition of groups opposed to putting transit on the trail.

A discussion followed about the Town's response to revisions to the Purple Line Functional Plan. This revision to the 1990 Montgomery County Georgetown Branch Master Plan Amendment would allow for all aspects of the state's currently preferred

alignment to proceed. Any additional comments were requested from LRP members by the end of the week.

Mary Anne Hoffman presented the list of seven Town residents selected among a highly qualified group of 14 applicants to serve on the Purple Line Mitigation Advisory Group. Those selected represent a cross-section of views on the Purple Line and have professional backgrounds in transportation, engineering, real estate or environmental fields. They use the Trail in different ways. Methods were discussed to seek broader input on mitigation ideas from Town residents including neighborhood or Town meetings, emails, a card survey, etc. It was emphasized that working with the state on mitigation measures in no way precludes the Town from pursuing further options related to the Purple Line.

Border Development Update: Steve Seidel noted no new development activity. He reported that the County Council has moved up the date for considering a new master plan for Chevy Chase Lake to 2011 from 2013. It was decided that the Town would send a letter requesting to be part of the process.

Non-Citizen Voting Rights: Following an update by Jim Roy, it was decided to table the issue until the next Town survey in 2010. A question will be inserted to determine the extent of non-citizens residing in Town, and whether this issue is a concern for residents.

Wisconsin Avenue Pedestrian Safety: John Midlen gave an update on progress related to safety issues at the intersection of Willow Lane and Bethesda Ave. crossing Wisconsin Ave. It was concluded that he would ask auditors to include these concerns in their draft report and for discussion at their wrap up meeting.

#### Farm Women's Market

Following up on concerns expressed by Ken Hartman about possible community discontent with the flea market at the Montgomery Farm Women's Cooperative Market, Tina Coplan gave a brief history of the market. The flea market was introduced to help defray expenses and signal that the market is open year round. It was decided that a history of the market would be written for the Forecast.

#### Additional Comments

John Murtagh praised the book *Wrestling With Moses*, as a community action guide for one-woman's success in turning development around in New York. It was decided that people interested would read the book and discuss it at the January meeting.

#### Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned promptly at 8:25 p.m.