

Town of Chevy Chase
LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 14, 2009
6:30 to 8:30
Minutes by Sharon Light

Attending: Pat Burda, Karen Depew, Charles Duffy, Mary Anne Hoffman, Leslie Hill, Sharon Light, John Midlen, John Murtagh, Russ Powell, Jim Roy

Not in attendance: Tina Coplan, Steve Seidel

Meeting called to order by Karen Depew at 6:30 pm.

Public Forum topic and speaker suggestions:

The following topics were suggested for forums in 2010 that would include other sections of Chevy Chase as well as the Town:

1. Women's self-defense course
2. County & State Elections Forum of candidates for both the primary in September and general election in November focusing on budget, education and transportation projects
3. Purple Line Process -- how decisions are made at the Federal level
4. Growth questions
5. On-line Governor Discussions

Pat Burda agreed to assist Charles Duffy in exploring the second option.

Border Development Update

John Murtagh reported on the Montgomery County Planning Board's proposal to streamline the County's development review process. Information about the present complicated process and proposed revisions to the process can be reviewed online at www.montgomeryplanning/process.org.

John Murtagh suggested that the streamlining would make the permitting process easier but could limit public input. One positive aspect is the fact that one manager/office would be assigned to the project throughout the entire planning process, unlike now where several offices become involved and tracking a project can be difficult. John will continue to monitor the County's efforts.

Purple Line Dec 10 Planning Board Hearing Update

Pat Burda reported on the Dec. 10 Planning Board hearing on the proposed Purple Line Functional Plan, which would amend the 1990 Master Plan that called for a single-track trolley line between Bethesda and Silver Spring. The proposed Functional Plan calls for two tracks between Bethesda and New Carrollton.

Three-fourths of the 40 citizens who testified Dec. 10 raised issues about Trail safety and whether the Trail and the light rail could actually exist side by side under the new plan. The Town's comments were submitted. The public comment period was extended beyond the 10th.

Purple Line Mitigation Advisory Group

Leslie Hill and Mary Anne Hoffman reported on the group's initial meeting with Maryland Transit

Administration's Purple Line project manager, Mike Madden, and MTA engineers on Dec. 5. Madden briefed the group on current plans for the Purple Line project and agreed to return on January 7 to explain why the Trail's planned location has been changed from the south side of the transit-way (nearest the Town) to the north side. The January 7 meeting of the Mitigation Advisory Group is open to all residents.

Long Range Planning Annual Strategic Plan Review and Update

Karen Depew presented recommendations for updating the Town's strategic plan that she, Pat Burda, Mary Anne Hoffman and John Midlen developed. The committee agreed with the suggestions and asked that Karen present the recommendations at the January Town Council meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.