

**Town of Chevy Chase  
Long-Range Planning Committee  
Minutes of December 15, 2008**

Mary Anne Hoffman, note taker

Attending: Pat Burda (Chair), David Lublin (Council Liaison), Karen Depew, Charles Duffy, Mary Anne Hoffman, Steve Seidel, John Midlen, John Navratil and Marty Saggese

Pat Burda convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The minutes of the previous committee meeting were approved.

Bethesda Development/Woodmont East

Steve Seidel reported all quiet on the development front in Bethesda. The developer's modified plans for Woodmont East are an improvement, but plans for the tail track and buses on the green space in front of Gifford's remain a concern. In addition, the State's proposed abandonment of Reed Street and moving the crosswalk will create problems for bikers and destroy more of the popular green space. The Town will express these concerns when it testifies on the revised Woodmont East plan. The Long-Range Planning Committee will bring the JBG/Elm Street Park issue before the Council. Karen Depew will clarify with the B-CC Regional Services Center plans to close Bethesda Avenue temporarily while work proceeds on Lots 31 & 31A.

Town Survey

Public safety and crime were the top concern among respondents who commented in the recent survey of Town residents, Karen Depew reported. Committee discussion ensued around comments in the survey regarding building code regulations and enforcement, and how to facilitate better education/communication to encourage less contentious debate on issues moving forward. Depew will be our committee liaison to Community Relations should they decide to look into this more.

Traffic Pedestrian Safety Issues

John Midlen reported on the meeting he attended with the County transportation engineer seeking community input on concerns about pedestrian safety. Sixteen accidents involving pedestrians on Wisconsin Avenue and Leland Street occurred in the last 12 months. The County's traffic engineering studies section will perform a 2-day audit on that stretch of Wisconsin Avenue to observe pedestrian and driver interactions. The Committee will write the County to applaud its plans for the audit and to request results. We also will tell the County that Lynn Street/East West Highway is a problematic area for pedestrian safety.

Purple Line Update

Pat Burda reported on Town meetings with elected officials regarding Purple Line transit options. Delegate Anna Sol Gutierrez has promised to push for further analysis of BRAC's impact and the number of trees that would be removed for transit on the Georgetown Branch route.

Other Committee Projects

Chairs of Town committees will meet early in the new year for updates on each other's work, Pat Burda reported. John Navratil will be the Long-Range Planning Committee's liaison with the new Parks and Playground Committee.

Future Projects for LRP Committee

Possible projects include addressing:

- Compensation for the Town Council
- Other governance issues
- National Register: honorary, voluntary historic designation
- Appropriate uses of the Town's capital reserve

Pat Burda urged Committee members to send ideas for other possible projects to her before the next meeting on Monday, January 26.