

Town of Chevy Chase Long-Range Planning Committee Meeting Minutes May 16, 2011

John Midlen, Scribe

The meeting was convened at 7 p.m. by Co-chair Steve Seidel. Others attending were Tina Coplan (Co-chair), Pat Burda (Council Liaison), Carla Graeff, Mary Anne Hoffman, John Midlen, John Murtagh and Jim Roy.

Development updates: Chevy Chase Lake, Eastham's, and Lot 31

Chevy Chase Lake. Pat Burda briefed the Committee on the Connecticut Avenue Corridor Committee's (CACC) most recent meeting. The first week of June the Planning Staff expects to post online its initial recommendations for the Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan. They will be holding a public meeting to go over their recommendations on Saturday, June 18, from 10:00 AM to noon at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, located at 5906 Connecticut Avenue. They will present the staff draft plan to the Planning Board in the fall. Given the recent Land Company meeting with the Planning Staff, CACC will be exploring a similar meeting with Staff.

Tina Coplan presented a graphic of the Land Company's plans—23 buildings of 4 to 19 stories on 47 acres. It was noted that these plans do not address public facilities and infrastructure. Ms. Coplan will check on number of stories in buildings in Friendship Heights, White Flint and Silver Spring.

Eastham's Service Station Land. Steve Seidel presented a site plan for multi-family residential on land now occupied by Eastham's Exxon at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and Leland Street. The current proposal focuses on developing only the Leland Avenue side of the station lot used by Eastham's and its customers.

Lots 31 and 31A. In light of the planned closing this fall of Lots 31 and 31A for construction of one, connected underground garage and the attendant temporary reduction parking spaces availability, there is concern about the potential for an uptick in illegal, unauthorized parking by Bethesda shoppers in the Town on streets near Wisconsin Avenue and Bethesda Avenue-Leland Street. John Murtagh will apprise the Town's Public Services Committee of this concern for possible further action by them.

CR Zone Amendments

The CR Zone Amendments have been approved by the Planning Board. They go to the County Council tomorrow, May 17, for hearing. Pat Burda is to testify at the hearing; Steve Seidel prepared the draft testimony. She will represent the Town and stress that the amendments, as currently proposed, allow for inadequate community input and too much development as of-right without additional review.

Purple Line Mitigation Group

The PLMG has not met since the last LRP Committee meeting. Mary Anne Hoffman noted there are no new developments on the at-grade Lynn Drive crossing. Revised noise studies by MTA are winding up. They have promised to share these results when complete.

Strategic Plan and Other Issues

Strategic Plan. The Committee reviewed the December 2010 edition, made certain changes and it will shortly be dispatched to the Town Manager.

Elm Street Park. An increase in vandalism and a longer time to accomplish corrective action were noted. Jim Roy is to take this to the Town Council.

Non-Citizen, Resident Voting. Pat Burda noted that one town resident had renewed a request to extend Town voting rights to non-citizens who otherwise meet the Town's voting criteria be allowed to register and vote in Town elections. It was recalled that the LRP Committee, to which the question had once before been referred, had voted in its June 2010 meeting not to pursue the matter and not to recommend inclusion of a question regarding same in the Town Survey that took place last year. [See June 21, 2010 Minutes]. The Committee will prepare a brief response to give to the Town Council explaining the committee's rationale.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.