

Town of Chevy Chase
Long-Range Planning Committee
Minutes of Meeting of May 17, 2010

Russ Powell, Notetaker

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

Candidate Forums

Tina Coplan reported on the work she, Leslie Hill, Karen Depew and Pat Burda have done to disseminate information about candidates for the County Council and State Legislature, and the reasons these upcoming elections are important to Town residents. Most of her report and the committee's discussion focused upon the forums that have been scheduled on June 1 for District 1 Council candidates Roger Berliner and Ilaya Hopkins, and on September 2 for the at-large candidates for County Council. At present, the at-large election includes four incumbents and six challengers. Some discussion was devoted to a third forum for District 18 State Senator and three House Delegates. Plans for this third forum will be discussed further at LRP's June meeting and finalized in July. Charles Duffy will moderate these forums.

Work to be done in preparation for the forums, and the person who will assume responsibility for each task includes:

- 1) Mary Anne Hoffman will make 100 copies for the June 1 forum of the Q and As the committee produced for the District 1 Council race and placed in the Town "Forecast."
- 2) Tina Coplan will produce the sign-in sheet for attendees at the June 1 forum
- 3) Jim Roy will monitor the time each candidate is permitted to speak at the June 1 forum
- 4) Tina Coplan and Pat Burda will provide wording of five outdoor signs to promote the June 1 forum; John Murtagh will then order and post the signs, possibly rotating on the day of the forum.

John Midlen will secure a list of civic associations from Ken Hartman at the Bethesda Regional Services Center and work with Tina Coplan to contact appropriate citizen groups about co-hosting the second and third forum.

Border Development Updates

- 1) Pearl Street. Steve Seidel reported that Donohue, the developer, has submitted a plan for this site to the County Planning Board. A 90-day period has begun in which staff reviews the plan and prepares a report to present to the Planning Board.

Todd Hoffman, Steve, and Pat Burda will visit the Planning board staff to offer Town comment on Donohue's Peal Street plans. Pat Burda brought up the idea of a "Living Wall" for the building.

2) Lot 31. Steve Seidel reported that in a small lot that is part of Lot 31, work has begun on a major year-long project of laying fiber optic cable under Bethesda. Construction on the large parcel across the street will reportedly begin in April of 2011.

3) Woodmont East. JBG, the developer, appears to be moving forward with its proposed 13-story office building where the old Thyme Square building is now located, but the Gazette recently reported that it also owns nearby properties and is considering a major revision incorporating these properties.

4) Connecticut Avenue day care. Steve Seidel reported on the request by the operators of a day care business on the site of a former embassy on the northeast corner of Connecticut Avenue and Bradley Lane to increase the number of children they serve from the current eight to 24. This idea was opposed by all present due to the traffic complications this would cause at busy times of the day, and because of the increased risk to which children walking to CCES would be exposed. Steve Seidel will draft a recommendation to the Town Council that the Town testify in opposition to the day care facility's expansion plans.

4) Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan. Jim Roy reported on the open house he attended on April 27 that was hosted by the Montgomery County Planning Board. regarding the Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan. Tina Copland, who also attended, made additional comments. Currently approved is nearly 250,000 square feet of office and retail space for the Chevy Chase Land Company's development on the site of the Chevy Chase Supermarket and T.W. Perry. It is expected that the Planning Board's new Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan would greatly increase allowable building density in a two-mile radius around the proposed Purple Line station at Connecticut Avenue between Manor Road and Chevy Chase Lake Drive. Jim and others noted that any further development in this area, let alone a major development on the extensive property owned by the Land Company, would make an already intolerable traffic situation at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Manor Road even worse.

A final decision on the Sector Plan is expected by 2012, with construction slated to begin in 2013 in order to be completed by 2016 when the Purple Line is expected to open, if it wins Federal approval and funding. It was agreed that no comments need to be submitted prior to the scheduled presentation by Bill Bonner of the Planning Board to the LRP Committee in June.

More information on the proposed Chevy Chase Lake sector plan can be found at www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/chevy Chase/index.shtm; www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=101993983177279 MCP-CCLake@mncppc-mc.org.

5) Re-write of County Zoning Regulations. John Murtagh attended a presentation on the effort to rewrite the county zoning regulations to remove redundant and archaic references, and to make them more streamlined and comprehensible to the average citizen. The "public listening" process is now complete. The process of rewriting will last another year, at which point, in approximately June of 2011, another opportunity for public comment will be afforded.

Purple Line Mitigation Advisory Group.

Leslie Hill and Mary Anne Hoffman reported on the Mitigation Advisory Group's recent walk along the proposed Purple Line route between the Air Rights Building and Lynn Drive. Also participating were representatives of Maryland Transit Administration, the County Planning Board's transportation staff, and aides to Council members Roger Berliner and George Leventhal. Issues raised during the walk are detailed in the minutes of MAG's May 6 meeting, which can be viewed under "Committees" at www.townofchevy Chase.org

Strategic Plan Review

Mary Anne reported that she, Karen Depew and Todd Hoffman have reviewed all Town committees' progress on their assigned Strategic Plan tasks and that the Town Council will receive LRP's recommendation on what other Strategic Plan tasks committees should be asked to consider tackling. Town residents will be invited to review the Strategic Plan next year to suggest any updates that need to be added to the document approved in 2006 to guide Town governance and operations.

Meadow Lane

In response to a question about the status of the former Li property on Meadow Lane, Pat Burda announced that public comment on the proposed subdivision of the property would be heard at a public hearing on May 20 before action is taken on the proposal.

| The next meeting of the Long-Range Planning Committee will be on June 21, 2010.