

Town of Chevy Chase
LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 18, 2010
7:00 to 8:40 p.m.
Minutes by Karen Depew

Attending: Pat Burda (Council Liaison), Tina Coplan (Co-Chair), Karen Depew, Charles Duffy, Carla Graeff, Leslie Hill, Mary Anne Hoffman, Leslie Hill, John Midlen, John Murtagh, Jim Roy, Steve Seidel (Co-Chair)

Meeting called to order by Tina Coplan at 7:00 p.m. She welcomed Elza Hisel-McCoy and Ron Cashion from Montgomery County Planning Department to provide an overview of the County's Master Plan process.

Planning Department Presentation Highlights

There is a general County Master Plan, then regional Master Plans (such as Bethesda-Chevy Chase), and within the regional Master Plan there are sector plans. When changes are made to a plan, the following happens:

1. Public Hearings are held to provide the public an opportunity to express concerns or ask questions.
2. Work sessions within the department are then held to study the matter.
3. The Planning Department drafts its recommendations and presents them to the Planning Board.
4. Planning Boards recommendations are sent to the County Council for final review and action.
5. Zoning changes or sectional map amendments are then implemented.

The cycle usually takes 1 ½ to 2 years.

Providing an update on the new Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan, Planning Department representatives reported that they are currently working with facilitators to design a series of public meetings. After the public meetings are completed, the department will then make an initial recommendation to the Planning Board. It is expected that these steps should be completed by next spring with a press release about the public meetings issued in the next several weeks.

Planning staff recommended that the Committee communicate regularly with them to keep updated on what is being worked on now and in the future. To be effective, we were advised to contact the Planning Board early with our written concerns and to continue staying in contact.

Purple Line Mitigation Group

MAG presented its recommendation that the Town Council submit a letter to the State about three major areas of concern:

- Noise abatement.
- Visual impacts.
- Safety, both all along the track and at the Lynn Drive at-grade crossing.

The Council approved the recommendation letter and will send it to the State.

Pearl St. Development

Steve Seidel shared revised development plans for the building at the end of Pearl St. and abutting the north side of Town. Based on feedback received from the Town and the Planning Department, the developers have made a number of changes including::

- Adding a set back at a height of 60 feet along Pearl St.
- Changing the building façade to mostly reflective material to soften the visual impact of the building.
- Shifting some of the density to over the existing garage area.

Steve and Pat Burda will meet with residents along the boundary before LRP makes a final recommendation for action to the Town Council.

Forums

John Midlen talked briefly about the State Senate District 18 debate on October 20 in the Town Hall.

Council Recommendations to Committees

Steve reported the Town Council's recommendations for all committees, which serve as advisory bodies to make recommendations to the Council.

- *Forecast* articles are due the 15th of each month.
- When talking to the press, to government representatives, or at public meetings, unless specifically authorized by the Town Council, committee members do NOT represent the Town, but are speaking as private citizens only.
- Agendas and minutes should be posted in a timely manner.