

**Town of Chevy Chase
LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 20, 2010**

Minutes by John Murtagh

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

The meeting was convened at 7:03 p.m.

Development/Planning

Purple Line

Mary Anne Hoffman reported that the Purple Line Mitigation Group (MAG) has learned that lowering the track bed to place the Crescent Trail over the rail in the tunnel could cost an additional \$25 million. For this reason, MTA and the County are considering a trail route that would not use the tunnel but would instead cross over the tracks outside the tunnel to the south side of the right of way where it would lead directly into Elm Street Park.

Separately, State officials have proposed an unpaved, graded footpath on the Town side of the rail line between Lynn Drive and Elm Street Park. This idea raises additional questions, which need to be addressed (see MAG minutes from December 7). County officials have also suggested that the Town might benefit from hiring an engineering consultant to work with State and County officials on the design phase of Purple Line development. MAG will follow up with the Town Council on these points.

Pearl Street

Steve Seidel reported that after additional input from the affected residents and the LRP Committee regarding lighting and other design issues, the Pearl Street development had been approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board. Elm St. Park playground will be upgraded under the terms of the approval conditions. Follow up will be needed to be assure compliance. There was also discussion about the amenity of a ramp access between the Trail and Pearl Street, which was promised as part of the earlier Hilton Hotel development but never completed. This amenity has been included as part of the 7003 Pearl Street project. The Town needs to urge County officials to carry out the project.

Chevy Chase Lake

A new advocacy organization of 20 communities bordering Connecticut Avenue has been formed. Called Connecticut Avenue Corridor Committee (CACCC), it has held one meeting to date.

The Planning Board scheduled two community meetings to be run by nonprofit facilitators. The first, on Jan. 10 at the Planning Board office, will include presentations by major landowners in the sector including Chevy Chase Land Company.

Zoning Code Rewrite

A meeting of the Zoning Rewrite Advisory Committee will take place on Jan.19 at the Planning Board. John Murtagh will try to attend that meeting and report back.

Other Items

Riser Cost

John Midlen reported on the costs of renting and buying risers like those used at the last political forum. Due to the difference in the cost of renting versus buying — \$275 versus \$1,600, the committee decided not to recommend buying risers at this time.

Montgomery County Civic Federation membership

After discussing the benefits of the Town joining the Civic Federation, the committee voted to recommend that the Town join. John Midlen will prepare a memo for the Council.

Town Banking Accounts

John Murtagh reported that his inquiry to Town Treasurer Linna Barnes was referred to Andy Silverstone in the Town Office. He will follow up.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.