

Town Of Chevy Chase
LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, July 19, 2010

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

Not in attendance: Steve Seidel and Sharon Light

Mary Anne Hoffman convened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Candidate Forums

Tina Coplan and John Midlen presented updates on two upcoming forums they are organizing for the Town with neighboring communities as co-hosts:

The County Council At-Large Candidates' Forum will be held September 2 at the 4-H Center. Because this forum is before the September 14 primary, there will be 9 Democrats, 3 Republicans and 1 Green Party candidate. Charles Duffy will introduce the candidates and set the context for three areas of discussion: taxes and budget; traffic congestion; and county growth and development issues. After 25 minutes of discussion among the candidates on each of these issues, each candidate will have approximately one minute to explain what differentiates him/her from the other candidates and why voters should support him/her. Co-hosting this forum with the Town will be Town of Kensington, Coalition of Kensington Citizens Associations, Silver Spring Citizens Association, and all Chevy Chase municipalities. John Murtagh will have outdoor signs promoting the forum fabricated and will post them around Town the week before the forum.

The second forum, for State Senate and Delegate candidates, will be held October 20 at the 4-H Center. Candidates who win their primaries will participate. This forum will have a different format as fewer speakers will be debating and in all likelihood the Democrat candidates for Delegate will be unopposed.

Border Development Updates

Connecticut Avenue Daycare exemption- Pat Burda reported that the Town Council has agreed with the Committee's recommendation that the Town should weigh in with the County Planning Board concerning the tightness of the lanes on Connecticut Avenue and the increased traffic congestion which would arise from having people drop off children at the expanded day care center being proposed. The Town will join Chevy Chase Section 3 in opposing the day care exemption before the Hearing Examiner this fall.

Chevy Chase Lake development plans- Jim Roy and Pat Burda reported on the proposed Chevy Chase Lake sector plan, which will significantly affect the Connecticut Avenue area around Chevy Chase Market and TW Perry Lumber. The Committee agreed that traffic congestion is a major concern here and recommended the Town send a letter urging the Planning Board to expand the sector plan's traffic study area to include East-West Highway to Wisconsin

Avenue, Brookville Road, Connecticut Avenue, from Kensington south to Chevy Chase Circle and Jones Bridge Road. Pat Burda reported that town managers of all the neighboring municipalities will work together to relay their concerns about Chevy Chase Lake development to the County. Karen Depew agreed to draft the Town's letter urging an expanded traffic study.

Purple Line

Pat Burda reported on a recent County Council committee meeting to consider amending the Purple Line functional master plan. The original plan calls for single tracking of the Purple Line and placing the rail to the north side of the trail. The amended plan would place the rail to the south of the trail (closer to the Town) and calls for double tracks. It is believed that the County Council will approve the changes. Projected costs to build the Trail alongside the rail line have swelled from \$25 million to \$65 million.

Strategic Plan Report

Karen Depew reported on her presentation to the Town Council regarding the Town's 10-year Strategic Plan, whose implementation the Long-Range Planning Committee is charged with monitoring. The Council has decided that residents will be invited to review the Plan every five years – not to change principles and goals, but to see if current developments make it necessary to add specific tasks or strategies under the principles and goals Town residents agreed on for 2006-2016.

Council has asked the Long-Range Planning Committee to make residents more aware of the Plan and how it is benefitting our Town. Karen Depew and Mary Anne Hoffman agreed to develop a series of "Forecast" articles to highlight major accomplishments under the Plan's various goals.

County Process for approving development

John Murtagh raised concerns about the short notice the Planning Board gives residents on development issues it will consider. The Committee will discuss this with planner Bill Barron when he speaks to the LRP in October.

Committee members were encouraged to let the Town know whether they wish to serve again on Long-Range Planning. The co-chairs thanked the group for its faithful attendance and service this year.