

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
November 6, 2008

Present: Kathy Strom, Mayor; Rob Enelow, Vice Mayor; David Lublin, Secretary; Linna Barnes, Treasurer; Al Lang, Community Liaison; Todd Hoffman, Town Manager; David Podolsky, Town Attorney.

Residents and guests: See attached

I. Call to Order

Mayor Strom called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Discussion of the Purple Line Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (AA/DEIS) and Retaining Legal Representation for Analysis of the AA/DEIS

Mayor Strom commented on the need to preserve the Capital Crescent Trail as a valuable natural resource and indicated that the Jones Bridge Road alternative using Bus Rapid Transit would achieve that goal.

Mayor Strom stated that the purpose of this meeting is for Council to consider retaining an attorney so that the Town can make its best case to the State as it reviews alternatives for, and decides on, a favored Purple line route.

Mayor Strom explained that the Town had interviewed a number of law firms with transportation-related experience. She said that the Town had narrowed its choice to two firms, one of which has offered to work on a pro bono basis.

III. Public Comments

Seventeen residents spoke about whether to retain legal representation for analysis of the AA/DEIS. Fifteen residents spoke in support and two residents spoke against retaining legal representation.

IV. Council Action on Obtaining Legal Representation for Analysis of the AA/DEIS

Councilmember Barnes made a motion to retain Sidley Austin to provide pro bono legal services for analysis of the Purple Line AA/DEIS. Councilmember Lublin seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Councilmember Barnes noted that the location of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the pending expansion of the Bethesda Naval Medical Center due to the BRAC process favor the Jones Bridge Road alignment.

Mayor Strom outlined the qualifications and experience of the two firms. She reviewed highlights from the two interviews.

Councilmember Enelow said he supports the Purple Line along Jones Bridge Road due to the BRAC consolidation at Bethesda Naval Medical Center.

Councilmember Lang noted the importance of capping Town expenditures on the Purple Line analysis. He indicated the need for public hearings if additional funds are needed.

Councilmember Lublin said that it is alright to disagree over the Purple Line and that the Purple Line project is better now and more likely to happen because of open public dialogue and discussion. He noted the need to preserve park space and the Capital Crescent Trail as well as the need to move quickly to retain legal representation since the AA/DEIS process is so short. Councilmember Lublin thanked everyone who has spent time on the Purple Line analysis.

Councilmember Barnes' motion was called, and the Council voted unanimously to retain the law firm of Sidley Austin to review and provide representation on the Purple Line AA/DEIS.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Lublin
Secretary

Transcribed by Todd Hoffman