

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE REPORTER
COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN HALL
October 14, 2008

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Met in closed session pursuant to Maryland Code, State Government Article, Section 10-508(a)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain advice on a legal matter (interpretation and application of the Town Code provisions regarding setbacks for corner lots); and Section 10-508(a)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Approved minutes of the September 10 Executive Session and the minutes of the September 10 Council Meeting with an amendment.
- Approved the September 2008 Financial Report.

VARIANCE HEARINGS

- Approved unanimously the front yard fence variance for Jonathan Ellen and Margaret DeLisser of 6915 Ridgewood Avenue.
- Approved unanimously the 3.5 foot rear yard setback variance and 16 foot wall plane length variance for Gerald Garfinkel and Doris Hamburg of 7407 Oak Lane.
- Approved unanimously the 8.3 foot rear deck covering variance for Larry Thompson and Elizabeth Carder of 4214 Maple Terrace.

PUBLIC HEARINGS & COUNCIL ACTIONS

- Introduced an ordinance to amend the Town Code to eliminate the requirement that an absentee ballot applicant must enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with an application or appear in person at the Town Office to pick up an absentee ballot. A public hearing on the ordinance will be scheduled for the November Council meeting.
- Re-appointed the three current Election Board members (Costis Toregas, Brenda Lizzio, Hope Pinkerton) for another year.

DISCUSSIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Delegate Alfred Carr made a presentation on street lighting upgrade and purchase options for the Town.
- Pat Burda briefed the Council on developments regarding Montgomery County's Bethesda Bikeway Project. The County would need to use a portion of 47th Street, which is in the Town's right-of-way. Council discussed the various impacts on the safety of the riders and the need to remove some trees. The Council asked staff to prepare a letter to the County advising that the Town will not allow the use of 47th Street right-of-way at this time.
- Discussed the rationale for restricting parking in front of 7208 Oakridge Avenue. Decided to ask the Public Services Committee to review the parking issue and confer with the Town engineer about how to proceed.
- Appointed a committee, consisting of Kathy Strom, Linna Barnes, Pat Burda and Todd Hoffman to select a law firm to assist with the preparation of a written submission regarding the AA/DEIS on the Purple Line. Directed staff to publicize the November 18 public hearing at the National 4-H Center and provide Town residents with information on the procedure to appear and testify.
- Directed staff to investigate the possibility of installing safety boxes along the Capital Crescent Trail (CCT) and adding more hours of foot patrols in Elm Street

- Park and on the trail. Asked staff to contact Park and Planning to request that bushes be trimmed near the entrance to the CCT tunnel at Elm Street for safety.
- Agreed not to establish an intermediate appellate board to hear permit appeals.
 - Traffic Sub-Committee of the Public Services Committee will study the information from the previous Traffic Committee, including widening the 7000 block of Oakridge Avenue and cut-through traffic issues throughout the Town. The subcommittee also will analyze traffic-flow around Chevy Chase Elementary School.

NEW BUSINESS

- Councilmember Al Lang to investigate issues surrounding providing rebate money to households in the Town. Town Attorney David Podolsky provided some initial guidance and will work with Councilmember Lang.
- Voted unanimously to express support of the concept of replacing the playground equipment at Chevy Chase Elementary School.
- Voted unanimously to establish a separate line item for Parks and Playgrounds under the Civic Affairs and Constituent Services Program and to transfer \$10,000 from the Civic Affairs line item to the new Parks and Playgrounds line item in the same program.

Adjourned at 10:05.