

Community Relations - final October 2011

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Community Relations Committee is to create a deep sense of community and neighborliness among the Town's residents. The committee organizes activities and events aimed at residents of all ages and interests; communicates to Town residents the information they need to be active participants in the Town; and helps residents reach out to their Town government so that it will be responsive to their needs and concerns. The committee also provides opportunities for community service.

Completed

- Create and publish a handbook describing municipal government in the Town (provided by Town Manager); I.1.c.1-3
- Provide information on Town's distinctive character to residents (provided during FAR process; see Jakubiak report)
- Institute block captain program to educate residents on community security and emergency issues; I.2.D
- Review & modify handbook describing municipal government (2nd edition provided by Town Manager); I.1.c.1-3

On-going

- Establish programs and events that build community; III.1.B.1-4
- Encourage residents' participation in Town affairs; I.1.B.1
- Review effectiveness of communication used in Town and recommend changes as needed; I.4.A.2
- Expand use of media to communicate with residents; I.4.A.1-2
- Educate residents about community safety and emergency preparedness plans; I.2.D
- Utilize block captains to communicate with residents (see also 1.2.D); I.4.B.1-2

Future Tasks

- Continue to develop and plan events which would be of interest to residents of various interests and ages in order to foster community spirit and participation
- Develop process for updating the Town's historical pamphlet for the Centennial; identify areas of research; II.2.B.1
- Create plan for providing information to homeowners/developers on the Town's built environment; II.3.C.1

Long Range Planning - final October 2011

Mission Statement:

The Long-Range Planning Committee identifies monitors and analyzes emerging trends and local, county and state activities that could affect the Town's quality of life and recommends appropriate Council actions. It also monitors implementation of the Town's Strategic Plan.

Completed

- Develop orientation for new Town Council members in conjunction with Council and Town Manager; I.6.C.1,2,5,6
- Establish a process to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan; I.2.F.1-2

On-going

- Monitor emerging/best community practices; II.5.A.1-2
- Monitor county and state affairs for emerging issues & strategize for Town response; I.5.A.1-2
- Monitor development near town borders; I.5.B
- Review Strategic Plan progress; I.2.F.3
- Educate residents on county and state issues affecting Town
- Oversee work of Purple Line Mitigation Advisory Group
- Develop relationships with key people influencing regulations relevant to Town

Special Tasks for '11-12

- Complete halfway update of the Strategic Plan
- Consider impacts of "graying" community and infrastructure/social structure needs
- Monitor Montgomery County zoning rewrite, in conjunction with Land Use Committee
- Monitor specific development projects: Pearl Street, Elm Street Park, Chevy Chase Lake, Woodmont East, Lots 31 and 31A
- Hold Town forums to educate residents on county and state issues

Public Services - final October 2011

Mission Statement:

The Public Services Committee of the Town of Chevy Chase is charged with helping the Town deliver high quality services and promote a safe environment for our residents. Public services of interest include those provided solely by the Town as well as those services that are partially or fully provided by other governmental and/or private entities. These services include public safety, water run-off, utilities and Town maintenance.

Completed

- Meet & confer with other governmental entities to resolve storm water issues (Phase I & 2 completed; Phase 3 approved); IV.5.B.1
- Develop and advise residents on Consulting Water Management Program; IV.5.B.1
- Evaluate street lighting and hold forums to educate public; I.2.C
- Evaluate street lighting and make recommendation to Town Council

On-Going

- Evaluate, implement & monitor public safety issues; I.2.C.1-2
- Evaluate existing service amenities (e.g., traffic, sidewalks, parking enforcement); III.2.A.1-2
- Consider new service amenities and implement, if appropriate; III.2.B.1-2
- Educate residents about community safety and preparedness -- coordinate with Community Relations; I.2.D.1

Priority Tasks for '11-'12

- Implement street lighting procedures with Town staff; Meet with PEPCO to determine options for purchase of street lights or implementing new technologies; Contact other municipalities that have purchased their street lights to determine best practices
- Evaluate need for and recommend additional sidewalks; Provide evaluation results and recommendations to Council for consideration
- Evaluate permit parking regulations, including resident petition and survey requirements, and report to Council

Land Use - final October 2011

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Land Use Committee is to consider and recommend solutions to issues and concerns relating to land use and construction in the Town of Chevy Chase that may be identified by the Town Council, Town residents, or the Committee itself; to advise the Council on the use of existing Town authority to control development and redevelopment; and to identify laws, policies, and practices related to development that the Town may wish to use. Recommendations are made in view of the Town's Strategic Plan and the public health, safety and general welfare of Town residents.

The Committee will, among other things: (1) advise the Council on land use issues as they arise, 2) monitor enactment of new state and county regulations pertaining to land use that impact the Town, 3) monitor effectiveness of existing Town land use ordinances and regulations and suggest modifications, 4) provide information to Town residents and developers about the Town's land use goals, regulations, policies, and practices.

Completed

- Maximize use of existing Town authority to control development & redevelopment; II.1.A., 1,3,4,5
- Provide information to homeowners/developers on Town's built environment (see Jakubiak report); II.3.C.1
- Identify key laws, policies, practices, etc. that the Town wishes to control concerning development; II.1.B.1-2
- Develop strategies for obtaining control over development; II.1.C.1
- Review and revise Chapter 4 ("Building") of the Town Code (first phase completed)
- Provide status report on effectiveness of land use regulations and suggested modifications
- Create and publicize incentives (considered and rejected); II.3.D.1 & 3
- Develop handbook describing Town building code

On-going

- Advise council on land use issues
- Review land use ordinances & regulations; I.3.A.1,2,4
- Oversee Town's Park and Playgrounds Program
- Monitor new county and state regulations and determine impact on Town
- Update handbook describing Town's building code as needed

Priority Task for '11-'12

- Monitor Montgomery County zoning rewrite in conjunction with Long Range Planning Committee
- Work with County on Elm Street Park Playground plans
- Update handbook to reflect Chapter 4 revisions

Governing Body (Council and Town Manager) - final October 2011

Completed

- Establish code enforcement mechanisms; I.3.B.1
- Maximize control over development using powers currently available; II.1.A.1-5
- Appoint five standing committees; I.1.A.1-4
- Create & publish a handbook describing municipal government in Town--see also Community Relations; I.1.c.1-3
- Establish process & procedures for tracking and resolving complaints from residents; I.2.E.1-2
- Schedule timely pre-construction meetings; II.4.C.1-2
- Establish mechanisms for online comments about development issues; II.4.B.2
- Clarify task assignments for Town Manager and staff and identify how success is to be measured; II.3.A-D, III.2, III.2.A, III.5.A
- Develop orientation for new Town Council members working with LRP; I.6.C.1,2,5,6

On-going Town Manager

- Adopt best practices in municipal financial management (using GASB & GFOA standards); I.6.A.2
- Adopt best practices in personnel management (using MML, NLC & IMCA practices); I.6 B.2
- Identify emerging issues at county & state levels & create a plan for managing them; I.5.A.1-2
- Study the efficiency & effectiveness of municipal operations--to be reviewed again in 2011; I.2.B.1-4
- Notify adjoining residents about development applications; II.4.A.2
- Encourage participation in staff training & educational activities; I.6.C.1,2,5,6,
- Work with county & state officials to resolve storm water drainage issues; IV.5.B.2
- Assure the Town's appropriate records are organized and easy to access; I.4.C.
- Review data to identify trends and to take all appropriate actions; I.2.E.3
- Review ordinances and regulations (in conjunction with Council)
- Track and resolve complaints from residents; I.2.E

On-going Council

- Encourage participation in training & educational activities; I.6.C.1,2,5,6,
- Review Committee work on an on-going basis; I.1.A
- Review ordinances and regulations in conjunction with Manager; I.2.E.3

Priority Tasks for '11-12

- Provide session to Council and Boards on legal procedures for hearings
- Facilitated session to clarify roles & responsibilities of Town staff, Council and Committees

Climate and Environment - final October 2011

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Climate and Environment Committee is to inspire and facilitate energy conservation and environmental stewardship by the Town and its residents through education, government policies, and incentives.

Completed

- Developed Native Canopy Tree Planting Program; IV.2
- Reviewed and revised the Town's Water Ordinance; IV.5
- Developed Noise Control Ordinance; IV. 2.B
- Reviewed and revised the Town's Tree Protection Ordinance; IV.2.A
- Developed Energy Audit and Improvements Assistance Program
- Signed Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement; IV.4.B
- Developed Chevy Chase Challenge
- Developed Step Up to the Challenge Walk-a-Thon
- Conducted Greenhouse Gas Assessment/Survey
- Distributed Compact Fluorescent Bulbs
- Purchased renewable energy credits for Town streetlights
- Initiated Town-specific Bike Day

On-going

- Publicize & enforce the tree ordinance; IV.2.A.1,3,4
- Publicize & enforce the water ordinance; IV.5.A.1,3,4
- Inventory open spaces and natural resources; IV.3.A.1
- Identify & prioritize adverse environmental threats & recommend solutions; IV.4.A
- Preserve and expand the tree canopy; IV.2.A-B
- Reduce environmentally adverse activities; IV.4
- Continue to educate the community about environmental issues; IV.1.B
- Monitor emerging/best community practices and educate residents
- Encourage active transportation through an annual event

Priority Tasks for '11-'12

- Prepare proposal to identify incentives for building greener in Town
- Review and approve Water Drainage Users Guide
- Recommend adoption of an Conservation Easement Program to preserve and enhance open space; IV.3.B.1
- Encourage Climate Control Block Parties
- Increase uptake of audits and home energy upgrades
- Create process for monitoring and implementing best practices
- Improve communications