



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION
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ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION
Approved Minutes of Meeting
April 6, 2015 – 7:30 P.M.
City Hall – Lower Level Conference Room

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mary Cook, Chair	_____x_____	_____
Lawrence Bleau	_____x_____	_____
James McFadden	_____x_____	_____
Rose Greene Colby	_____x_____	_____
Christopher Gill, Vice Chair	_____x_____	_____

Also Present: Planning Staff -Terry Schum and Theresheia Williams

I. Call to Order: Mary Cook called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Christopher Gill moved to accept the minutes of March 9, 2015. Lawrence Bleau seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

III. Amendments to Agenda: Mary Cook moved to add item VI, “Meeting in a Box,” to the end of the agenda. Commissioners accepted unanimously.

IV. Public Remarks on Non-Agenda Items: There were no Public Remarks on Non-Agenda Items.

V. Briefing of meeting with City Council on APC’s Roles and Responsibilities

Mary Cook and James McFadden met with the City Council on March 10, 2015 to discuss the charge of the Board. Mary Cook submitted a letter to the Council indicating the concerns of the Advisory Planning Commission. They also discussed recruiting a University of Maryland staff member to sit on the APC board. Once the Council has met with all of the Board Chairs, there will be an opportunity for Council to discuss any changes they wish to make and another meeting may be scheduled.

VI. Continue the “Meeting in a Box” for the Strategic Plan:

Commissioners completed the “Meeting in a Box” exercise for the Strategic Plan and their responses shown below will be submitted on April 10, 2015.

D. Growth and Development

Work with partners to facilitate significant investment along Route 1, in the College Park metro area, and the Hollywood Commercial District to expand commercial development and housing options and increase the tax base to finance improvements in services and infrastructure.

Objectives

1. The City has stable neighborhoods with growing housing options, particularly additional home ownership opportunities.
2. The City government is responsive to new development proposals and provides the community and developers with timely, consistent, structured processes and collaboration.
3. Resources are provided for City services to meet increases in demand or changes in community needs/desires.
4. City residents have high quality public pre-K through 12th grade education options and opportunities for lifelong learning.

Question: What would you change, add, or delete to the descriptive statement or objectives?

- **Add “Station” after metro in first sentence of description.**
- **Objective #2 - change to read, “The City government is receptive to new development proposals.” The City provides the community and developers with a structured process that allows them to collaborate in a timely and consistent manner.”**
- **Objective #3 – add at the end of the sentence, “particularly a range of senior housing opportunities and services.”**
- **Consider moving objective #4 to section G, “Excellent Services.”**
- **Add a new objective, “Protect neighborhoods from negative impacts of new development.”**
- **The Innovation District should be moved to the list under the economic investment priority.**
- **Add the Board of Education and other non-profit educational institutions as partners in the last council priority.**
- **Add Greenbelt FBI plan to the priority list.**

E. Resilient Infrastructure

The City’s infrastructure, including roads, sidewalks, paths, internet, utilities, parks, playgrounds, City Hall, and other city facilities are constructed and maintained at a high quality standard and meet the needs of residents, employees, and visitors.

Objectives

1. College Park regularly evaluates its public infrastructure and facilities and provides funding so all facilities meet the expectations of residents and the planned growth of College Park and surrounding neighborhoods.
2. College Park’s infrastructure is resilient and designed to function under potentially adverse conditions.

Question: What would you change, add, or delete to the descriptive statement or objectives?

- **The description is too wordy. Should be organized in several sentences for the different types of infrastructure listed.**
- **Objective #1 is too broad, and should not include funding for surrounding neighborhoods.**
- **Under priorities add, “insure ADA compliance for all sidewalks.”**
- **Utilities should be included under the priorities list.**
- **Unsure whether surveillance cameras should be extended unless they are shown to be cost effective.**

F. Effective Leadership

The City models excellent leadership and teamwork among Council, staff, and community partners to achieve the City’s vision and goals.

Objectives

1. The Council and staff have a clear vision for the community and have engaged and inspired community members who embrace a positive view of College Park’s future.
2. The Council acts as one policy body, clearly communicates expectations to staff and provides leadership for advancing College Park’s vision and strategic plan.
3. The Council balances the need to be both responsive and decisive and communicates its actions clearly and frequently to residents.
4. The City develops leaders who listen, challenge perceptions, educate community members, and help people see things from different points of view.

Question: What would you change, add, or delete to the descriptive statement or objectives?

- **In objective #2, replace “who” with “to.”**
- **In objective #3, include “provide forum for residents to be better informed.”**
- **Objective #4 is unclear. How will City develop leaders?**
- **What is meant by Staff succession plan? Do you mean “Continuity of Operation?” Doesn’t a “hiring plan exist?”**

G. Excellent Services

College Park has high quality, consistent, and cost-effective services in every department that contribute to a desirable, welcoming, and safe City for all.

Objectives

1. All services are responsive to the community's needs, and value, improve the quality of life, and utilize technologies effectively.
2. Services are aligned with the City vision and goals, including becoming a top 20 college town, and are implemented in a cost-effective manner.
3. City policies are communicated clearly and professionally and are implemented and enforced equitably.
4. The City has a holistic view of public safety and engages all City departments, public safety agencies serving the City, and residents to ensure that College Park is a very safe community.

Question: What would you change, add, or delete to the descriptive statement or objectives?

- **In objective #2, delete “including becoming a top 20 college town.”**
- **In objective #4, remove “very” and replace with “safe and secure community.”**
- **In objective #5, insert “to” before delivering.**
- **Under priorities add “Establish meaningful and effective performance measures”.**
- **Under priorities, what does develop a technology plan mean?**
- **Online payment and permitting – delineate the process, could be covered someplace else.**
- **Animal shelter seems out of place in this list.**

Question: What is one bold initiative that you believe would be transformational for College Park?

Take over Route 1 from the State Highway Administration, call it Baltimore Avenue and create a beautiful boulevard without utility poles that includes a median, generous sidewalks, bicycle lanes and landscaping.

VII. Update on Development Activity: Terry Schum reported on the following:

The Hotel at University of Maryland – The Detailed Site Plan was approved by the Planning Board with conditions on March 26, 2015. The project will be moving forward and will not be called up by the District Council.

Greenbelt Station- Metro South Core – This project was approved for over 1,000 townhouses located adjacent to the Greenbelt MARC Station and the Greenbelt Metro Station. This is the last development in the South Core of Greenbelt Station. There is a requirement to show a pedestrian bridge across the tracks, which has met with some controversy from the neighborhoods. No Planning Board date has been scheduled.

Innovation District (former East Campus) – A schematic plan for the Innovation District will be presented by the consultant working with the University at the April 21, 2015 City Council Worksession. The presentation will consist of general conversation about the types of uses, buildings and streets.

VIII. Other Business:

Hollywood Road Extension Feasibility Study – This study will consist of the extension of Hollywood Road west of Route 1. The City Council will approve the scope of work before the feasibility study can began. The consultant for the study is Vika Maryland LLC, who was selected by Mazza Grandmarc, and has worked on other projects in the City. The study will involve a couple of meetings and one-on-one with property owners. Sometime in the near future, there will be a draft that will be distributed. The APC might want to facilitate a meeting.

Complete Streets Workshop – The City of College Park will be holding a Complete Streets Workshop on Wednesday, April 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

IX. Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Theresheia Williams