



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION
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ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 7, 2011 – 7:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Advisory Planning Commission – Lawrence Bleau, Heidi Jones-Huffman, Robert Day, and Mary Cook; Planning Staff – Terry Schum, Elisa Vitale and Theresheia Williams

I. Call to Order: Lawrence Bleau called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Heidi Jones-Huffman moved to accept the minutes of February 3, 2011. Robert Day seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

Mary Cook suggests attaching to the minutes a copy of the letter sent to Mayor and Council with the commissioner's comments and recommendations on the Strategic Plan, in case they need to be referred to in the future.

III. Amendments to Agenda: There were no Amendments to the Agenda.

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

V. Legislation to Implement additional Planning & Zoning Authority

In 2005, the City asked the State Legislature for additional Planning and Zoning Authority from Prince George's County. Effective June, 2010, the County amended Section 27-924 of the Zoning Code and authorized the City to regulate three of the subject areas enabled by the State, as follows: 1) alternative compliance from landscaping requirements; 2) certification, revocation and revision of nonconforming uses, and 3) minor changes to approved special exceptions. There is a public hearing scheduled for April 26, 2011 at 7:30 with the City Council on the City's ordinance, which would implement this authority.

VI. Initiation of Greenbelt Metro Area and MD 193 Corridor Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment

The purpose of the proposed plan is to address connectivity issues and complete streets with a focus on the Greenbelt Road/MD 193 corridor. The boundaries of the current plan have been changed from the boundaries of the 2001 Greenbelt Metro Area Sector Plan to exclude any portion of the City of College Park. The focus of the plan is to go further east of Kenilworth Avenue, which includes Beltway Plaza, Greenway Plaza the Maryland Trade Center and University Square Apartments. In 2001, when the Greenbelt Sector Plan was done, North College Park was part of the planning boundary and now they are out. North College Park neighborhoods, in particular, are impacted by transit-oriented development at the Greenbelt Metro Station and residents should be heard as part of the planning process.

This issue will be discussed at the City Council meeting on Tuesday and staff will be sending a letter to the Planning Board with their comments. Possible comments include asking Park and Planning to consider including part of the Greenbelt Road corridor which they have excluded. Park and Planning will be formally initiating the process in May.

Heidi Jones-Huffman moved to have staff draft a letter to Mayor and Council to include the following comments. Robert Day seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0.

- City of College Park should be an active participant in the planning process due to the fact that development in the Greenbelt Station area will have a direct impact on the residents of North College Park.
- APC supports extending the planning boundary to include the MD 193 corridor to Rhode Island Avenue and Greenbelt Road (MD 430) to US Route 1 in order to address accessibility issues.

VII. Update on Community Projects

Hollywood Gateway Park Project – This property is located at Rt. 1 and Edgewood Road. The City acquired it using Program Open Space funds. It's a small site with a number of constraints, so it will be a passive park that is a gateway to the Hollywood community. The City has been working with the Landscape Architecture department at the University of Maryland to have a student design contest for the park. North College Park also formed a subcommittee of interested residents, so they provided input that was forwarded to the students.

On April 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., the student teams will be presenting their design concepts for the park at Davis Hall. Resident comments on the designs will give a sense of what concepts the community would like for the park. We will factor in feasibility and give the conceptual designs to a professional landscape architect and engineer to come up with something that is buildable on the lot.

Pattern Book – The consultants will be submitting a draft of the pattern book on April 8, 2011 to the steering committee for their review and comments. A second public meeting with the consultants has been scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. This will be an opportunity for the consultants to present the draft pattern book to the community and get input and comments.

Skate Park – The final design was presented and approved by the Mayor and Council. It has been forwarded to Park and Planning for their review and approval. Grindline Skateparks, Inc., who has the design/build contract is working with a local engineering firm to prepare the final drawings and submit for permits. The City may be taking on additional maintenance for the upkeep of the park, and is working with Park and Planning to revise the agreement to include maintenance and annexation.

University of Maryland Facilities Master Plan – Frank Brewer will be providing an update on the Facilities Master Plan process at the April 19, 2011 City Council meeting. The University is looking at revising their shuttle UM routes, adding bicycle infrastructure that does not exist on campus, developing a building program over the next 20 years and planning for the purple line coming through campus. They are also looking at the campus as a botanical garden.

VIII. Update on Development Activity

Maryland Book Exchange – The Detailed Site Plan is still not available. The case will be scheduled before the APC prior to going to Mayor and Council.

IX. Other Business: There was no other business.

X. Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Theresheia Williams