



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION
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ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION
Approved Minutes of Meeting
February 5, 2015 – 7:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers

<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, Miriam Bader and Theresheia Williams

I. Call to Order: Mary Cook called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Lawrence Bleau moved to accept the minutes of January 15, 2015. Christopher Gill seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

III. Amendments to Agenda: Terry Schum added to the agenda under Other Business, discussion of the remand for CPD-2014-01, 4618 College Avenue.

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

V. Report on New Partners for Smart Growth Conference:

Mary Cook and Rose Colby gave a brief report on their attendance at the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference held on January 29 -31 in Baltimore, MD. The conference was geared to smart-growth in the Baltimore area and how they use a wealth of smart-growth and sustainability tools and policies to transform it into a multi-industry economy.

Mary Cook attended the tours of the Hampden and Charles Village neighborhoods in Baltimore where a resident and developer shared their vision for the neighborhood and how they are tackling the redeveloping of vacant lots into public green spaces. She also visited local remodeled homes, developed by Sewall Development, that are marketed primarily for teachers to purchase. Also located in the building is office space for educational nonprofits. Mary also showed photos of the different “Parklets” that were on display at the conference.

Rose Colby attended panel presentations where they talked about how non-profit developers are leading the way in a lot of cities. She stated that more non- profit developers are being hired to invest in the community and bring in the philanthropist and the government partners to look at the whole picture for that community.

The panel also discussed smart-growth policies in general and how you use them in cities and suburbs to change your structure and attract a new kind of businesses and deal with zoning issues. Rose shared the list of attendees, which included local government, corporate representatives, foundation organizers, planners and architects.

VI. Continued Discussion of APC's Powers & Duties:

Terry Schum stated that the City Council is in the process of preparing a schedule for meeting with individual boards and commissions. The Advisory Planning Commission is first on the schedule to meet with the City Council. The APC Chair will be invited to meet with the Council, but other members may also attend. There are two dates available, March 10 or March 17. Commissioners voted unanimously to meet with the Council on March 10, 2015. Terry stated that the APC Chair will receive a formal invitation from the City Clerk's office. Mary Cook suggested that the commissioners submit to her by February 22nd their ideas of items to be discussed with the Council and she can compile a list to be approved at APC's March 5th meeting.

Terry Schum suggested that for the Strategic Plan, the Commission should participate in the "meeting in a box" opportunity to comment on the draft vision, mission and goals proposed by City Council. Staff will obtain the packet to be included on APC's March 5th agenda.

Terry Schum stated that staff routinely applies for grants from a variety of local, state and federal sources, but given the deadlines, it's not realistic for the APC to become involved in the process. Rose Colby stated that the APC could submit letters of support, if needed, for any of the grant applications.

VII. FY2016 Operating Budget

The Advisory Planning Commission budget over the years has declined because the travel and training line item was not being utilized. There is only \$300 for travel and training for two members to register for the Maryland Citizens Planners Conference. Terry Schum stated that if the commissioners would like to increase their budget to attend a different conference, training or membership let her know.

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

The Hotel at University of Maryland – The City is waiting for the developer to come back with revised plans. A tentative new date for the public hearing is March 19, 2015.

Branchville /Crossing – No application has been filed. The developers, Cruz Development, will be present at the North College Park Civic Association (NCPCA) meeting on February 12, 2015 to discuss their proposal to develop Affordable Housing-Multifamily Apartments adjacent to the Branchville Fire Dept.

Pregnancy Aid Center – They are bringing back their Preliminary Plan of Subdivision application to build an addition to what use to be the Compassion Center. No application has been filed.

Hollywood Commercial District – Terry Schum and Michael Stiefvater will be attending the NCPA meeting on February 12, 2015 to provide an update on the conceptual designs for the proposed streetscape improvements for the Hollywood Commercial District.

IX. Other Business:

Oral Argument for CPD-2014-01 was held on January 27, 2015. The applicant attended with his attorney to present their argument. Staff did an orientation and Kathy Bryant, president of the Old Town Civic Association spoke. The first motion before Council was to deny the request and reverse APC's decision, but the vote failed. A new motion was put on the table to remand the application back to APC because they disagreed with APC's conclusion of law and the rationale that was used for reaching the conclusions. The attorney, Suellen Ferguson, will prepare a remand order for APC. Council has to vote to approve the remand order, which will be directions to the APC for how to proceed in deliberating. The remand order will be on Council's February 17, 2015 agenda for them to review.

X. Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Theresheia Williams