



**Annual Report to The Mayor And Council**

FROM: Advisory Planning Commission

BY: Stephanie Stullich, Chair

DATE: January 7, 2021

I. What is the Purpose of the Board? (As stated in the City Codes or establishing Resolution).

According to Section 15-19 of the City Code, the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) is charged with: making recommendations to the Mayor and Council regarding zoning applications including departures and variances, hearing appeals related to City building codes, providing analysis and input relative to the County and University plans and studies and proposing workable solutions for community problems related to zoning, building and development codes.

II. Provide an update on the previously approved workplan (if applicable) that lists and briefly describes progress and outcomes during the past year in support of this purpose.

The APC is exempt from filing a workplan as determined by the Mayor and Council. The following is a summary of activities during the past reporting period.

- The APC met 5 times (once every month, except January, February, May, July, August, September and October). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings held after March were scheduled virtually.
- Applications for variances were down significantly from previous years. A total of 7 public hearings were held and are summarized below by type of application.

Application #	Lot Coverage	Front Yard Setback	Rear Yard Setback	Side Yard Setback	Parking in front yard	6' fence	4' fence	Code Violation
CPV-2020-01				1				
CPV-2020-02		1						
CPV-2020-03	1							
CPV-2020-04		1						
CEO-2020-01						1		
CEO-2020-02							1	
20-432								1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

- After the resignation of three members (Lawrence Bleau, Christopher Gill and Llatetra Brown Esters), including the Chair, Stephanie Stulich was elected the new chair and Santosh Chelliah was elected the new Vice-Chair at the meeting on November 5, 2020.
- Orientation materials were provided to newly - appointed members including the requirement for taking the Planning Commissioner Training Course provided by the State of Maryland. James McFadden and Santosh Chelliah have met this requirement.
- The Policy and Procedures pertaining to Boards and Commissions were reviewed and discussed.
- The adopted, but not yet effective, new Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance was reviewed as it pertains to APC activities including the possibility of the APC holding required pre-application neighborhood meeting requirements.
- The City Council Code of Conduct (Res. 19-R-22) applicable to all board and commission members was reviewed and discussed.
- An informational presentation on the Conceptual Site Plan for Terrapin House was held at the December 3, 2020 meeting and members of the Old Town and Calvert Hills Civic Associations and Downtown College Park Management Association were invited to attend. In addition to APC members and staff, there were 5 members of the Applicant's team and 23 members of the public attending the meeting. The minutes of the meeting reflect the questions, answers, and comments between the Applicant, APC members and the public.

III. Provide a recommended workplan that lists and briefly describes goals, objectives, and tasks for the upcoming year in support of the purpose. Workplans must be approved by the City Council.

The APC is not required to submit a workplan, however, it would like the Mayor and Council to know that it is interested in holding public forums on proposed new development projects prior to these projects coming to the City Council for review. The intent is to provide a venue for the public to learn more about these projects early in the process and to be able to interact with the developer. Notice of the forums will be provided to any civic association representing the area and to adjoining property owners and residents. The goal is to have the minutes of these meetings available to the Mayor and Council prior to formal action on a project.

IV. Please identify any issues or problems that you want to bring to the attention of the City Council.

Based on the comments made at the developer presentation held on December 3, 2020, the APC heard that community members are concerned with the scale and type of new development occurring in the City, and about the need for a more comprehensive and rigorous approach to stormwater management.

The general public has become accustomed to online formats for community meetings, and in some cases, these are better attended than in-person meetings. Even after the pandemic ends, the APC suggests that it may be worthwhile to hold some meetings virtually, particularly the type of public forum mentioned in Section III above.