

Bethesda Downtown Plan Special Committee
Minutes
September 21 , 2016
Town Hall , 7 p.m.

Attendees: Cecily Baskir, Pat Burda, Tina Coplan, Karen Elkins, John Freedman, Dedun Ingram, Ken Rubin, Barney Rush, Jean Shorett, Quynh Tran, Deborah Vollmer

Minutes: Sept. 7, 2016 minutes were approved.

Forecast: The insert is done!

Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP):

Three members of the Town Council gave complementary testimony before the County Council on Sept. 13, 2016, and Barney also attended the PHED Committee's first workshop on the SSP. Glenn Orlin floated the possibility of the Council acting on the SSP except for Local Area Transportation Review, and then taking LATR up later as an amendment. The PHED goal is to report out the SSP to the full County Council on Oct. 17. It must be acted on by Nov. 15.

SSP Follow-Up:

- Barney and Scott Fosler were scheduled to meet with Glenn Orlin (County Council staff) on Sept. 27. After that, they will set up meetings with members of the PHED committee.
- It appears the Department of Transportation's position on traffic supports the Town's. Follow-up should include reaching out to DOT and other communities. The BDP Committee will try to prepare a white paper for the County Council/Glenn Orlin on traffic study issues, which could be circulated to other communities to sign.
- The Committee also plans to move forward with putting together a proposal for a traffic study by the University of Maryland.

Bethesda Downtown Plan:

Town Meeting

- Pat is taking the lead preparing for the Town Meeting on Oct. 6. Barney will give the presentation, with other committee members available to help answer questions. The format will include a brief presentation followed by dialogue on each of the issues. The 3D model will be available to view.

- Major goals of the meeting include sharing information, getting information, and motivating residents to speak out/show up before the County Council.
- The Committee discussed ways of communicating information and soliciting information from residents, both at the meeting and after.
- The Committee also discussed different press strategies and possible timing, and it intends to consider the press issue further.

Other BDP issues

- Dedun is taking the lead preparing a position paper for the Town Council's consideration
- The Committee discussed strategy and substance related to the Jaffe property, Montgomery Avenue, and the parking lots, as well as how and when to develop the Town's positions.
- It was clarified that selling density is only an option for Priority Sending Sites; it is not mandatory. So the DOT could sell Lot 10 land to a developer.
- On staging of density, the Committee should consider how we want to define it- as something specific or by more general metrics. If it is by more general metrics, the mechanics should be clear conceptually: what kind of gate would there be between stages? The Committee also talked briefly about outreach to other communities regarding the staging idea.

Other:

Assignments for upcoming work were distributed.

The next meeting will be Oct. 5 and may run long in order to allow time to prepare for the Oct. 6 Town meeting and discuss substantive issues about the Plan.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.