

Long Range Planning Committee

Agenda

January 26, 2023

1. Attendees: Tambra Leonard, Adele Wagaman, Dedun Ingram, Rohit, David Valenstein, David Wittenstein, Stacey Schacter, Joel Rubin, and Ellen Cornelius Ericson
2. Adopt the minutes: Barney gave a presentation on the Farm Women's Market Project.
3. Old Business:
 - a. Update on the Farm Women's Market-charette with parks department and TOCC March 15th at 7pm in the Town Hall.
 - b. Price of the tunnel has increased since it was quoted before the pandemic. Delta is 30M. CCT tunnel: Stacey is for the tunnel. David W wants a tunnel and there has always been a tunnel. David V. said that the current tunnel is now light rail. Dedun said that they promised the tunnel. They cannot make an overpass. Joel recalled that CE Elrich excluded money for tunnel a few years ago. Adele said that the County should keep its promise. There is a lot of building in Bethesda and a lot more pedestrians so we need the tunnel. Rohit asked the number of people who used the tunnel when it was open. What are the number of people who have been hit on Wisconsin since tunnel has closed? Joel said that it was part of the Downtown Bethesda Plan. Congestion. Traffic. Environmental impact. Tambra wants to push for the tunnel. My idea is for TOCC to pay a grant writer to write a grant for MoCo to get federal money. Stacey will talk to a grant writer that he knows. Joel will take our unanimous decision to support advocating for money to be returned to CIP for the tunnel back to the council.
4. New Business:
 - a. Little Falls Parkway changes:
<https://montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/little-falls-pilotproject/>
 - i. Concerns about cut through traffic because Little Falls is down to two lanes
 - ii. Parks is not keeping up with Norwood Park
 - iii. Parks didn't consult the neighbors and nobody has shown where the money came from or what the budget for new park is and how many people use it
 - iv. There is a development coming to Westwood
 - v. It is green space
 - vi. It is a linear park which makes Bethesda more like NY and Boston
 - vii. Meeting scheduled for Feb. 15
 - viii. Chevy Chase West, Somerset, Edgemoor, and Kenwood are involved and would like our support. If we do not speak up then the County will continue to do this throughout the county. Joel will tell the town council that the LRPC recommends supporting the termination of the park.

- b. Planning Board nominees: <https://bethesdamagazine.com/2023/01/23/two-who-resigned-in-fall-try-to-regain-planning-board-seats/>
 - i. Three members will be selected. County Council will decide this in open session. The president and vice president will not be selected with this group.
 - ii. Tandra asked if there are ethics rules and conflicts of interest rules? Joel said that the County Council rules are not as good as the federal government.
 - iii. Ask the council to support: someone with qualifications, green focused, private public partnership, urban planning, real estate, one R one D and one I, yes for a few certain people and why, all support this approach, plus ethics argument too, Rohit suggested that someone meet with Friedson and ask them for their process and bring our list, emphasis on getting it right and not screwing it up again
 - c. Countering Anti-Semitism Pilot Program-Joel is coming up with a statement for the town council and get other municipalities to sign on, Stacey suggested that rabbis, priests, and imams sign off on a letter and they talk about anti-semitism at their houses of worship, Joel said that there is also support for 4-6 educational nights around 4-6 municipalities, ADL has No Place for Hate for schools
5. Adjourn
6. Next meeting: Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 6:45pm in the Town Hall