

**From:** linda swan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2014 5:03 PM  
**To:** Howerton, Leslye  
**Subject:** South Bethesda Master Plan

Dear Leslye Howerton,

Thank you for attending the Sacks Neighborhood Association meeting the other evening. It was interesting to hear the updates.

I am writing to send you a copy of the letter I emailed to Elza Hisel-McCoy on August 5, 2014. It was never acknowledged and does not appear with the letters that have been received by Planning. If I need to send a hard copy in addition to this letter, please advise. I would appreciate an acknowledgement that this letter has been received and listed with other public comments you have received.

Respectfully,

Linda Swan

Email sent Aug. 5 to Elza Hisel-McCoy and [bethesdadowntownplan@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:bethesdadowntownplan@montgomeryplanning.org)  
<[bethesdadowntownplan@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:bethesdadowntownplan@montgomeryplanning.org)>

Mr. Elza Hisel-McCoy  
Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
Montgomery County Planning Department  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Hisel-McCoy,

As as homeowners and residents of the Sacks subdivision in the area you have designated as South Bethesda, we have been interested in learning and contributing ideas at the various Master Plan Update meetings. The Bethesda downtown area has grown and prospered more than we could ever have imagined when we purchased our house in 1976.

It is hard to believe 20 years have passed since the last revision to the Master Plan. It is exciting to think about the possibilities and changes for the next 20 years. That is why we are writing to you today.

We have not heard proposals from the Planning Department team concerning increasing the density within the Sacks neighborhood comprised of Leland Street, Wellington Drive and Bradley Boulevard which are currently zoned R-60 single residences. We think an increase should be considered at this time since we will soon be located within a few blocks of the south entrance to the Bethesda Metro and the Bethesda Purple Line station. We are already an isolated community surrounded by multi-level commercial and multi-family residential buildings. We believe waiting another 20 years to consider higher density zoning is too long. This could be an opportunity for the County to create an Eco District with energy efficient new structures and smart growth within a short walk to public transportation and shopping.

Our neighborhood is a walking dream. We cannot think of a more convenient place to live. We believe there are people who plan to stay in place for some time to come. That is why we urge the creation of transfer of density rights if a density increase is planned. That way those who want to stay in their single family houses could benefit from the density increase and also benefit a project that might need the extra square footage.

We look forward to hearing more from the planning team and seeing the draft proposal to be presented to the Planning Board. This is an exciting time and we hope Bethesda will become a model of what eco-friendly smart growth planning can accomplish.

Sincerely,

Linda Swan  
Gordon Swan

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