

Germantown Forward:

Updating the Germantown Master Plan (1989)

Churchill Senior Living

September 19, 2007

Questions and comments from attendees

Churchill Senior Living is an independent living facility with 121 units on Father Hurley Boulevard just outside the Germantown Master Plan study area. About 40 percent of the units are affordable to seniors at 50% of the area median income. An expansion is planned which will approximately double the community population.

Following introductions, residents were given a brief overview of the current Germantown Master Plan, and the process for updating the plan. Then they were presented with two posters, Your Favorite Thing in Germantown Is... and Germantown Needs More..., and four stickers per person. Residents were asked to attach two stickers to the important things on each poster, or write on a poster and ask staff to note their ideas, if their thought was not included among the images.

On the first poster, Your Favorite Thing in Germantown Is, residents strongly voted for public amenities, including the new Germantown Library, public transportation options, and schools. On the second poster, Germantown Needs More, they hoped for expanded transit options, specifically naming a trolley and improved bus or cab services. They also sought creative places for young people to go and things for them to do. In addition, they would like to see part-time working opportunities that would afford them with a reason to go beyond their own grounds, and to remain productive members of the community.

In the majority of their comments, Churchill residents spoke about transportation. Many of the residents are dependent upon buses, but the closest bus stop has no bench or shelter for them. Kneeling buses would aid some of the residents who have mobility constraints. Comments also include a variety of entertainment possibilities. Last, residents provided a list of their frequent destinations, both within Germantown and outside of the community.

Resident input on posters:

Your Favorite Thing in Germantown Is...

Town Center		
Black Rock Center for the Arts	1	4.5%
Germantown Library	4	18.2%
Theaters	2	9.1%
Shops and cafes	2	9.1%

Germantown Forward, <http://mcparkandplanning.org/germantown/GermantownForward.shtm>

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Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Community-Based Planning

Houses of Worship	1	4.5%
Homes [Churchill Senior Living not shown]	0	
Transportation (buses, trains, paths)	4	18.2%
Schools, education	3	13.6%
Parks, recreation, trails, picnic areas	2	9.1%
Germantown Aquatic Center	2	9.1%
Employment, jobs, work opportunities	1	4.5%

Germantown Needs More...

Homes	0	0.0%
Employment, jobs, training	3	15.8%
Adult education	1	5.3%
Transportation		
Trolley	4	21.1%
Bus	2	10.5%
Cab	1	5.3%
Entertainment	3	15.8%
Places for children (young to teenagers)	4	21.1%
Other		
Tennis courts, please	1	5.3%

Comments and questions:

Trolleys—yes.

Germantown should be like other places where uses are clustered together.

Jobs—something three or four hours per day.

On transportation, fumes are a concern.

Residents who don't drive don't know some parts of Germantown.

Some people don't know the MARC station is here.

Need buses to MARC—there are currently buses to the transit station and to the historic district.

Need tennis courts.

Very important: need benches by the bus, need shelter for rain, heat, sun cold.

Only one bus in the community. It holds up to 14 people. On Tuesday and Thursday it takes residents to the grocery store, doctors, and so on.

The Ride-On bus comes every half-hour. It needs to be a kneeling bus—the bottom step is too high.

Some residents drive others to doctors down in Shady Grove.

There needs to be fewer people in Germantown.

No more expansion.

CCT to Frederick—good. Not Mid-County Highway.

Need free programs and opportunities for children's parade, for teens to participate.

Need entertainment venues for children.

What happened to the proposed ice skating rink at 355 and 27 (Ridge Road Rec Center)?

Need a place for an airplane club.

What is the status of the proposal to bring top notch shows and performances to Black Rock?

Keep the money in the county, in Germantown.

Need Trader Joe's, a V.A. Center, an Olive Garden.

Should have a pedestrian mall with cobblestone paving.

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Places Churchill residents go in Germantown:

Giant, Safeway (including their pharmacies)
Restaurants, places to eat
Library
Black Rock Center
New medical facility
Church
Parks

Places Churchill residents go beyond Germantown:

Pharmacy at Shady Grove
Whole Foods
Costco
Frederick
Gaithersburg
Kennedy Center (how to arrange transportation?)
Parks