

**Shady Grove Advisory Committee Meeting  
June 26, 2007**

Advisory Committee Members present: Joe Parello, John Compton, George Donovan, Pat Labuda, Pam Lindstrom, and Brad Botwin. Brian Pierce, Adam Brand and Michael McInerney were not present.

Nancy Hislop from the Up-County Regional Center, Pat Rados, a resident of Old Derwood, Jim Snee, a resident from Mill Creek, and Melissa J. Brachfeld, a reporter from the Gazette, were present. N'kosi Yearwood was M-NCPPC representative.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.

**Project Updates**

**I. Crabbs Branch Day Laborer Center**

Nancy Hislop, community liaison from the Up-County Regional Center, provided an update on the Day Laborer Center on Crabbs Branch Way. She is preparing a report that will be sent to the Planning Board that responds to the Board's questions raised during the Mandatory Referral review.

Ms. Hislop meets monthly with Casa de Maryland, the contractor of the Day Laborer Center. She provided the following numbers from May 2007:

- New employers registered - 208
- Existing employers - 86 (return from previous month)
- Job Placements - 596 (some workers placed multiple times)
- Temporary Job Placements - 37 (for more than one day)
- Permanent Job Placements -2

No police calls have been made to the site. Peak activities is between 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. English as Second Language (ESOL) and financial classes are now being offered to day laborers. Bicycles, from the Solid Waste Facility and Bikes for the World, have been provided to day laborers.

Brad Botwin asked several questions about overcrowding of houses, loitering around Walnut Hill Shopping Center, and illegal residents sleeping in school buses. The shopping center is located in Gaithersburg. Day laborers have used the shopping center parking lots to wait for temporary employment.

Nkosi Yearwood noted that Mr. Botwin issues were not germane to the advisory committee since there are other venues, such as the County Executive and County police, to express his views on illegal residents. Mr. Botwin noted that the issue is relevant since the day laborer center will continue to attract illegal residents. He stated that Help Save Maryland will create a Hall of Shame on its website of employers that employ illegal

residents. Mr. Botwin also stated that the Minutemen and other groups are having a demonstration on illegal residents. John Compton remarked that although Mr. Botwin had the right to express his opinion on the issue, there are other places than the advisory committee to represent his position and the Committee may not be the best place.

Joe Parello asked about the temporary nature of the Center. Ms. Hislop remarked that the Center is not expected to be a permanent center given the vision of the Sector Plan and the County has lease the trailer for a year.

## **II. Piedmont Crossing**

The Committee was notified that the Piedmont Crossing/Casey at Mill Creek site plan is tentatively scheduled for July 18. John Compton, Mayor of the Town of Washington Grove, said that the Town still has some remaining issues: viability of wetlands after the development is built; the type of trees proposed along Ridge Road; and the impact of wells along Ridge Road.

Mr. Compton said that park and planning staff does not have the expertise to answer the question of how viable the wetlands would be after construction. Mr. Yearwood said that a hydrologist or a wetlands expert could answer the specific issue. Pam Lindstrom inquired if members of the Audubon Society could help the Town and George Donovan asked if any person at the State could get involve. Ms. Lindstrom asked if the bog, which is a distinctive wetlands, was predicted to be maintained from the Germantown Plan, why the Piedmont Crossing wetlands cannot be preserve.

Mr. Compton suggested a landscaping committee between the Town and the developer to resolve the Ridge Road area. He also suggested that the Town might ask the developer to establish an escrow account for three years to cover any water problems after the development is complete. These issues will be presented to the Planning Board.

### *Action*

- John Compton will draft a list of issues to Ms. Lindstrom, who will then send a letter to the Planning Board.

## **III. Old Derwood Park**

The committee received a briefing on a future neighborhood park in Old Derwood. Artery Development, owner of the approximately 4.5 acres undeveloped land, is interested in conveying the property to the Parks Department. The proposed site plan for Baldwin Landing, adjacent to undeveloped land, will provide a curb cut to the future park access.

Pat Rados, an adjacent property owner raised some concerns on the proposal: tree and animal habitat loss, stream impact, and level of activity. Ms. Hislop and Ms. Lindstrom both remarked that they live adjacent to active recreation parks and it is positive experience to them and their neighbors.

Joe Parelo asked about the access of the property from Crabbs Branch Way and Yellowstone Way, and if parking will occur on the property. Nkosi stated that the Parks department would engage Old Derwood residents before the park is created. Nancy Hislop mentioned her positive experience working with the Parks department staff.

#### **IV. Casey 6 and 7**

Mr. Yearwood presented an overview to Casey 6 and 7 and the amount of development anticipated for both properties. He also read an email from Mr. Jackson from EYA indicating that the Federal Highway Administration is not expected to make a final decision on relocating the ICC maintenance facility to Casey 6 from Casey 7 until the end of July.

John Compton said that the Town received a letter from Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) regarding the impact of the ICC facility on Casey 6. He did not have a copy of the letter but noted that MHT was seeking additional assurances to protect the Town.

Brad noted that new development is coming Shady Grove and there is need for parks in the area. Mr. Yearwood said that the Plan recommends a series of new parks, including the acquisition of Casey 6, Jeremiah Park, future expansion of Blueberry Hill, and other open spaces near the Metro station. He also noted that the Parks department is seeking acquisition of this property.

Brad Botwin and John Compton highlighted the benefits of a park on Casey 6, while Ms. Lindstrom raised concerns about the proposed office development and associated traffic. Mr. Yearwood said that the proposed office development is consistent with the Master Plan recommendations. Mr. Compton suggested an alternative location of park at Piedmont Crossing-Phase II in the area previously reserved for an elementary school.

#### *Action*

- Ms. Lindstrom will write a letter to Planning Board requesting that rear portion of Casey 6 must be acquired for a local park.

#### **V. REOI Responses**

The committee was informed that the County received three responses to the REOI. The Committee requested a representative from the Montgomery County School Bus operations present an update on school bus operations.

#### **Next Meeting**

- The advisory committee next meeting is September 11, 2007 at 7:30 p.m