

## **White Flint Sector Plan Implementation Advisory Committee**

December 12, 2011

Summary Notes

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Committee members in attendance: John King, Michael Springer, Daniel Hoffman, Della Stolsworth, David Freishtat, Natalie Goldberg, Peggy Schwartz, Anne Root, Edward Rich, Arnold Kohn, Francine Waters, Meredith Josef, Kurt Meeske, Mike Coveyou, Mary Ward, Ruwan Salgado, Allison Dollar, and Chad Salganik

Committee members absent: Greg Trimmer, Evan Goldman, Mike Smith, Todd Lewers, Kurt Meeske, Barnaby Zall, and Paul Meyer

Guests: Brooke Farquhar (Montgomery Parks Department), Bill Carey (Strathmore Music Center), Dee Metz (Georgetown Village), David Walters (Georgetown Village) Bruce Johnston (Montgomery County Department of Transportation) and Greg Ossont (Montgomery County Department of General Services)

Montgomery County Planning Staff: N’kosi Yearwood and Steve Findley

### **Introductions**

The meeting began with committee members and guests introducing themselves.

### **Presentation: White Flint Public Facilities**

Greg Ossont, Montgomery County Department of General Services, provided a brief overview of White Flint Public Amenities Report prepared by Torti Gallas and Partners and Ouden Knoop Knoop +Sachs for Montgomery County. The report provides an overview and recommendations for a library, community center, satellite regional services center, civic green, Wall Park and the recreation loop. Greg indicated that next steps will include a briefing to the Planning Board, and further defining the recreation loop.

### **Q&A**

Committee members asked several questions and made observations on the Amenities Report. Natalie Goldberg said that the public use space, shown on the Page 16 in the Amenities Report (Connection Study) on the White Flint Mall should be removed from the report since it is not consisted with the Plan or what the community has agreed with. Nkosi noted that the consultant’s report and the Approved Sector Plan are similar in nature. Nebel Street Extended through White Flint Mall has shifted further west than the alignment illustrated in the Sector Plan. Therefore, the area with the public use space has been modified by the Mall’s sketch plan.

Meredith Josef said she is concerned about the report’s reference to a “Library Branch” rather than a full service library. Greg Ossont indicated that the Department of Public Libraries is

approaching the future library differently than existing libraries. He indicated that the County has had preliminary discussions with LCOR for a library at North Bethesda Center. And, he mentioned that flexible finished space is an important issue.

Nkosi mentioned that libraries staff have looked at the future White Flint library as a different model than existing libraries since there are existing libraries in close proximity to White Flint, including Rockville Town Square; Kensington Park on Knowles Avenue; and the Davis Library on Democracy Boulevard.

Ed Rich noted that prior discussions indicated a branch/satellite library for the area. Della Stolsworth said that prior discussions with the Department of Public Libraries reflected more openness to a different type of facility than what is recommended in the Amenities Report. Dan Hoffman noted the importance of combining of the service center with the library. Meredith believes that a full service library at 6,000 square feet is not large enough for the area.

Co-chair David Freishtat asked if the White Flint Special Tax District includes public facilities. Nkosi said the Tax District Resolution only supports transportation infrastructure items.

Brooke Farquhar gave an overview of the Civic Green, including the role of the Parks Department. She noted the challenges associated with acquiring and funding the improvements for the park.

Meredith noted that Discovery Green in Houston, Texas provides a model of public-private partnership for parks. Ed Rich noted the potential role of the Montgomery County Parks Foundation to fund the park. Brooke indicated there is a new executive director with the Parks Foundation so there is an opportunity to work with the group.

Natalie observed that the location of recreation center at Wall Park does achieve operational efficiencies. Meredith noted that one multi-purpose court for the Recreation Center (as recommended in the Amenities Report) is not enough for future, and co-location with other public facilities does create challenges. Brooke said that the new recreation center in Layhill provides a model to combine public facilities.

Arnold Kohn and David both observed that the public facilities models are suburban in nature and more urban models are needed. John King asked Greg Ossont if the proposed library at LCOR will include the regional services center. Greg indicated that discussions with LCOR are still underway.

### Committee Action

Co-chair Dan Hoffman suggested, and the committee agreed, that public agencies representative (libraries, parks and recreation center) provide an in-depth update to the Committee.

## **Presentation: White Flint Roads**

Bruce Johnston, Montgomery County Department of Transportation, provided an update on the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for Metro West realignment of Executive Boulevard and Old Georgetown Road. He indicated that each portion will become a stand-alone project after 35% design is complete.

Committee members asked several questions regarding the proposed roadway realignment. Since Nkosi (the note taker) was holding the display board with Mr. Johnston, this segment of the notes is less detailed.

Bruce addressed the following issues:

- The transportation study for the State and County is underway
- Construction timing for Metro west roads is projected in FY 16 and beyond
- Reducing Old Georgetown Road from 6 to 4 travel lanes

Mary Ward asked several questions regarding existing bikeway conditions within the Plan area. She said that the County could better implement bikeway facilities. Mr. Johnston indicated he will follow-up with Mary on her issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. and the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2012.