

Ashton Village Center Implementation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting: June 21, 2022, 7:30 PM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Agenda

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Reminder of procedures for virtual meetings
- 3) Approval of minutes – June 6, 2022 meeting
- 4) Changes to Agenda
- 5) Discussion/Action Items:
 - a) Discussion of and adoption of the rules of procedure
 - b) Selection of officers
 - c) Future meeting locations and dates
- 6) Adjourn

The meeting was recorded and can be viewed [here](#).

Attendees:

Montgomery Planning Staff Coordinator: Jamey Pratt

Members Present:

- Amy Medd
- Chelsea Hughes
- Harry Berman
- Jessica Sidar
- Julia Roberts
- Kathleen Wheeler
- Lianne Clements
- Michael Tharkur
- Nadine Masone-Mort
- Paul Mangus



Others Present:

- Donnell Zeigler, Master Planner Supervisor, Montgomery Planning
- Michael Subin for Jacqueline Manger (District 7 County Council seat candidate)
- Jewru Bandeh, Director, Eastern Montgomery County Regional Services Center

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:35 p.m.

General Items

Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Jamey explained that the meeting would be recorded and began the recording.

Members voted to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2022 meeting with no changes to the circulated draft.

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

Discussion Items

The Committee discussed the draft rules of procedure and edited the document and added comments in real-time.

After reviewing the document as a group, the Committee decided that they would like to have more time to review all the changes individually. A new meeting was set for Monday, June 27, 2022 to discuss the revised rules of procedure. Amy Medd agreed to provide a clean version of the document based on the discussion and to share it as a new Google doc.

Some issues that came up during the discussion of the rules of procedure:

- Committee members were curious about what pre-submittal meetings are and how to remain informed of such meetings. Don and Jamey explained that applicants are encouraged to reach out to the Planning Department in advance of any application to discuss their proposal. It is unclear how much confidentiality there is with these meetings, but Don and Jamey will attempt to get an answer. The Planning Department will try to ask the applicants if they mind if the Department shares information about the meeting with the Committee.
- There was a discussion about how the Committee's role is different than the role of anyone else from the public who wishes to submit testimony to the Planning Board for an application. Jamey explained that the Committee would have "more weight" because the Planning Board created the Committee in the master plan.
- A major point of discussion was how to handle a minority or tie vote on an issue. Jewru Bandeh provided an excellent synopsis of the issue:

So that's always been a challenge for advisory committees throughout the county in terms of what the roles are. Do you just vote on everything, or do you assess the viewpoint of the community and package it in such a way that you are informing the decision-making body in terms of the different viewpoints?



- The Committee was leaning toward breaking the Vice Chair/Secretary position into two separate positions, with the Vice Chair serving mainly to perform the duties of the Chair if the Chair is unable to perform the duties of that office for some reason.
- The Committee discussed whether minutes would need to be posted or if a recording of the meeting would suffice to meet the rules of Maryland's Open Meetings Act. It appears that a recording of the meeting would meet the letter of the law, but is perhaps not as helpful as a written meeting summary.
- The Committee considered various ways to invite feedback from non-Committee meetings during the meetings. Questions about when to allow feedback, how long to allow people to provide feedback, and how to control public feedback if things get unruly.
- The Committee added a provision regarding updating the rules of procedure.

The other agenda items were dependent on approved rules of procedure, so the voting of officers and a discussion of future meeting dates were both moved to the June 27 agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

