

Ashton Village Center Implementation Advisory Committee

Meeting: Jan 17, 2023, 7 PM

AVCIAC Meeting - January 17, 2023

Jamey welcomed everyone into the Zoom and noted those in attendance Attendees:

- Jamey Pratt – Park and Planning Department

Guests:

- Aaron Kraut - Executive Assistant for Montgomery County Councilmember Dawn Leudtke
- Doug Farquhar - Community member and recording secretary of the Sandy Spring Civic Association.

AVCIAC Members Present:

- Amy Medd - Chair
- Julia Roberts - Vice Chair
- Nadine Mort –Secretary
- Chelsea Hughes
- Paul Mangus
- Kathleen Wheeler
- Leianne Clements

Members Absent:

- Harry Berman
- Michael Tharkur
- Jessica Sidar

Amy recognized that a quorum was present and the meeting went forward

Agenda

The minutes from the November 15, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved

Two additional items were added to today's agenda.

The first added item was a report from Chelsea regarding the Sandy Spring Meadows Missing Middle Project, which, while outside of the Ashton Village Center Sector Plan (AVCSP) it is of interest to the community and thus the members of the AVCIAC. Chelsea spoke to the person doing the planning and it sounds like it is a two-year project. They plan to take out two of the playgrounds and install two basketball courts. The project is being funded by the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County.

Jamey and Aaron followed up on Planning Board updates – There are three open positions they are trying to fill and would start in March. Positions have staggered terms, so they would end on different dates. Deadline to apply for those positions is this Friday (1/20/23). By law they need to be balanced by political affiliations. The other two will be filled by the end of June (this includes the chair). All these positions are appointed by the council and serve 4-year terms and board members can serve 2 terms.

Old Business

Jewru Bandeh – Director East County Regional Services Center sent a note prior to the meeting as he was unable to attend and said he could coordinate a meeting/walk around between our

group and MCDOT/SHA. He suggested finding a couple of dates that would work for the group. The Committee identified Jan 24th (Tues) and Feb 3rd (Friday) at 2:30PM to meet, potentially at the CVS. This time was identified since it would be around the time that school lets out and would highlight traffic and pedestrian challenges on 108. Kathleen Wheeler will send Jewru a note with these dates.

New Business

Doug Farquhar, recording secretary for the Sandy Spring Civic Association (SSCA), joined the meeting and provided information on a recent discussion he had with the Sandy Spring Bank. On behalf of the SSCA, he contacted Janie Bjork, the community coordinator for the bank, in December to determine where they are in the process of developing the SE corner of 108 & 650. The bank owns the 4 parcels on the corner and has not sold this property. She reported that the bank had not signed any agreement with the developer as of the discussion. They have seen a proposal for the development but were concerned about the level of density and how the developer planned to financially structure the project. When the bank is ready to commit to a plan, they want to be sure that the community has an opportunity to comment on the plan. The Committee asked Doug whether Ms. Bjork was aware of the Ashton Village Center Implementation Advisory Committee (AVCIAC). Doug said they did not discuss the existence of the Committee. Nadine volunteered to contact Ms. Bjork and share the genesis, members, and mission of the IAC. The Committee agreed that when we see a proposal, we should reach out to the bank to see if they have seen it and are generally aligned with the proposal.

Kathleen made the Committee aware of changes behind the cricket bookstore/plumber where two lots have been combined to make a 1.5ac lot which enters the Spring Lawn Farm neighborhood. This area is adjacent to the Ashton Village Center Sector Plan. It appeared that all the trees on the lot had been clear cut and there was a question as to whether a forest conservation plan was required and followed. Mr. Kraut committed to look into it. Jamey took a quick look in MC Atlas and did not find any submitted plans but saw on the DPS website that the owner appeared to be submitting required permits under 17721 Crystal Spring Terrace.

Notice of Future meeting locations and dates:

Future meetings will be virtual, held on the third Tuesday, every other month at 7 PM or more often if a submission made to the Planning Board warrants a more expeditious review by the Committee.

The dates for the next meetings are: March 21, 2023 and May 16, 2023

Please note: community members should contact/email/call Jamey Pratt with any comments and concerns:

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Adjourn:

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:49