

Ashton Village Center Implementation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting: January 16, 2024 7 PM

Virtual

Minutes of the meeting:

Implementation Advisory Committee Members Present:

- Amy Medd (chair)
- Julia Roberts (vice chair)
- Nadine Masone-Mort (secretary)
- Harry Berman
- Chelsea Hughes
- Jessica Sidar
- Kathleen Wheeler
- Jimmy Lakey
- Paul Mangus

Implementation Advisory Committee Members Absent:

- Lianne Clements - notified technical difficulties which prevented attendance

Additional Attendees

- Jamey Pratt – Planning Department
- Aaron Kraut representing Councilmember Dawn Luedtke

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 7:02
- 2) Welcome and New Year Greeting
- 3) Review and Approval of September 19, 2023 minutes
- 4) Re-engaging with stakeholders on local road & pedestrian improvements
 - a) Discussed contacting Jewru Bandeh, Director MCG-East County Regional Office to follow up on State Highway Administration report which took place last February. Kathleen offered to write Jewru requesting follow-up.
 - b) Paul shared that the Olney Chamber's Community Meeting is on March 24th at Good Council. He proposed we develop and host a petition supporting the pedestrian safety



changes that the SHA personnel proposed for our area. Kathleen will contact Jewru and request images to use on information at the community night event.

5) Capital Improvements Program

- a) The committee noted that Capital Improvement Project List was released by County Executive today:
 - i) Aaron said he would investigate any projects that would affect Ashton/Sandy Spring and report back to the committee (noted that the Sandy Spring Bikeway would be along 108 from Dr Bird Rd to Northwood Rd). He provided the following links:
 - (1) This is the entire CE recommendation in .pdf form:
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OMB/Resources/Files/omb/pdfs/fy25/ciprec/FY25_Recommended_Capital_Budget.pdf
 - (2) More searchable way to look through projects in different categories (including sidewalks and pedestrian improvements in Transportation)
<https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/BASISCAPITAL/Common/Index.aspx>
 - (3) The Council CIP Public Hearings are Feb. 6, Feb. 7, and Feb. 8. Sign-ups will be available here starting at 9:30 a.m. on Friday (Jan.19): <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/calendar.html>
 - (4) Harry asked Aaron what are the characteristics of recently approved projects. He said that projects that are urgent and that cannot be solved any other way. Paul offered to reach out to the principal of Sherwood High School to see if he would support the proposed pedestrian safety changes.
- b) Amy suggested we send a list to the County Council of the pedestrian safety changes the committee is concerned about, specifically sidewalks and crosswalks. Jessica will re-send the list to Amy. Kathleen suggested we work with Jewru on this project. Aaron suggested someone from the committee testify at the County Council's public meetings that will take place on February 6, 7 and 8. Aaron also stressed the importance of including a cost estimate if one were available, and suggested prioritizing different phases of the project if possible.
- c) It was suggested that we reach out to area HOA or Civic associations and other institutions in the area (schools, museums, etc.) and ask them to write letters of support for any proposed pedestrian safety changes.
- d) Aaron said he would contact Council member and Ashton resident Will Jawando to get involved.



6) Cricket Book Shop Plans

- a) Committee members inquired about the Cricket Book Shop property. No additional information is currently available.

7) AOB

- a) Jimmy Lakey expressed concerns about the extremely bright lighting at the Sandy Spring Bank in Ashton. Paul believed that high intensity security lighting was installed to aid in video recording of any perpetrators.

- b) Jamey reported that there have not been any proposed developments submitted for the crossroads.

- c) Jamey said he has no additional information on the proposed commercial development for the Korean Mission Adult Day Care Center on Route 108 east of New Hampshire Avenue. Mark Beall is the contact person at Park and Planning for that project.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:01 PM

