



# Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 6, 2024 @ 8 AM

Notes Taken By: Dave Yampolsky

Hybrid Meeting (Microsoft Teams and in-person)

Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Suite 1204

## IAC MEMBERS AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

IAC Members: Jack Alexander, Dedun Ingram, Amanda Farber, Matt Gordon, Andy O'Hare, Dave Yampolsky, Patrick O'Neil, Naomi Spinrad, Jad Donohoe, Joyce Gwadz, Michael Fetchko, Stacey Band

Other Participants: Henry Coppola (virtual), Christine Ciabotti (in person), Elza Hizel-McCoy (virtual), Cindy Gibson (virtual)

- 1) **Parks Update: Capital Crescent Trail Civic Green, Montgomery Ave., Other** – Christine Ciabotti, Henry Coppola M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks
  - a. Several projects in Bethesda – heavy density
  - b. Typical timeline for parks projects are 4-10 yrs
    - i. Permitting is a major issue, interesting
  - c. Capital Crescent Civic Green
    - i. Funding Discussion – Is there a financing deck?
    - ii. IAC expressed concern about “rent” the Purple Line should be paying the County for its extended use of the property and the larger portion of the property they will use in perpetuity.
    - iii. MTA Permits / Purple Line Space? Planning now has the final drawings from the Purple Line showing what space they will need. It is more than expected.
    - iv. IAC asked if Parks can begin designing the space now that they have the final Purple Line plans.
  - d. Master Plan – Rec Center Status
    - i. Not part of Parks purview
    - ii. Public/Private Partnership to fund
    - iii. Similar size to Silver Spring Rec Center but no pool

- iv. IAC to schedule a tour in spring of SS Rec Center
- e. Montgomery Ave Parcels
  - i. Parks has decided not to purchase 4334 and 4336 Montgomery Ave. because they would be separated from the other Montgomery Ave. parcels designated for acquisition for the Greenway.
  - ii. IAC concerned that we were not consulted about this decision.
  - iii. IAC thinks the separation could be a benefit – would allow a dog park to be located there with separation from the rest of the parkland. Other lots designated for acquisition may never become available, especially because there are day care centers located on some lots. These lots have proximity to Elm Street Urban park from the Capital Crescent Trail.
  - iv. IAC will submit letter for recommendation of use of lots on Montgomery Ave
  - v. Use as an example of the concept for future development

## 2) **Miscellaneous Items Elza Hisel-McCoy**

- a. DAP – David Lieb joined in Nov.
- b. DAP - New Landscape Architect needed on the DAP, send any recommendations to Elza.
- c. 2024 Annual Monitoring Report
  - i. Draft in play – to IAC week of 12/9
  - ii. Jan 25 it will go to the board
  - iii. Parks Updated slides to be included
- d. Minor Master Plan Amendment Update
  - i. 12/12 Work session – 30+ written testimonies submitted
  - ii. Public record open until 12/9 COB

## 3) **Rules of Procedure**

- a. Elimination of Term Limits Discussion
  - i. If people want to stay on, they should be able to stay
  - ii. Hard to find new folks to join
  - iii. Continuity of the committee and knowledge of the Plan's history is important
  - iv. There has been turnover among both residential and commercial members.
  - v. IAC voted unanimously to remove the term limits after discussion  
There was a quorum.

[Bethesda Downtown Implementation Advisory Committee Website](#)