



Bethesda Downtown Implementation Advisory Committee Est. 2017

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May 1, 2026, Committee Meeting Minutes

WELCOME

Co-Chair O'Hare called the meeting of the Bethesda Implementation Advisory Committee to order at 8:10 AM EDT.

Present:

Andy O'Hare, Co-Chair	Residential
Matt Gordon, Co-Chair	Commercial
Jack Alexander	Commercial
Jad Donohoe	Commercial
Amanda Farber	Residential
Michael Fetchko	Residential
Joyce Gwadz	Residential
Dedun Ingram	Residential
Patrick O'Neil	Commercial
Naomi Spinrad	Residential

Not Present:

Andrew Saul	Commercial
Christopher Smith	Commercial
Stacy Wolf	Residential
David Yampolsky	Commercial

Other Attendees:

Henry Coppola	Parks
Stephanie Dickel	Planning
Gary Fahle	Resident
Richard Hoyer	Resident
Larissa Klevan	Planning
Marc Korman	MD House
TJ Dant	BCC Services

State Funding for Study of Bethesda Recreation Center

Mark Korman, MD House of Delegates, District 16, was on hand to explain \$100,000 in funding that was approved by the State legislature this spring to finance a study of requirements for a community recreation center in downtown Bethesda. The study, which will be overseen by the county Department of Recreation, will coordinate a process to development requirements with

opportunities for feedback from the community. Once complete, the requirements will be used to support funding of the center through the county Capital Improvement Program and other means. He also noted additional funding provisions which were also approved by the legislature, including \$100,000 for the Bethesda Arts and Entertainment District, \$1 million for upgrades to the emergency facilities at Suburban Hospital and \$15 million for school construction.

Presentation of Project Planned for 4719 Hampden Lane and 4720 Montgomery Lane

Janel Kausner (Washington Property Company) and Alyse Talbott (Design Collective) delivered an extended presentation on the multi-family residential project being proposed by Washington Property Company. The building will be slender and run from north to south Montgomery Lane. It will have about 200 units and top out at 262 feet. Over seventeen percent of the units will qualify as moderately priced. The building will have below-grade parking garage for 65 or so spaces and there will not be any ground floor retail. The project will go before the Planning Board in July. Construction is not anticipated to begin until the mid to later part of 2027 at the earliest.

Update on 8000/8008 Wisconsin Avenue Property Conditions

TJ Dant provided an update on the efforts to improve the management of these properties, noting that representatives of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs had visited the property on several occasions and issued several citations for derelict property conditions. It was noted that the property owner had in the last week painted some of the structures on the site. However, several other deficiencies still need to be remedied. Committee focus on this property will continue until its appearance is improved and maintained.

Other Business

Naomi Spinrad raised several concerns with the design of the proposed building at 7201 Wisconsin Avenue, many of which were shared by several Committee members. She will prepare a draft letter for potential submission to the Planning Board addressing concerns with the proposed project. No other business was brought before the Committee

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee will be on Friday, June 5 and will be held at the Greater Bethesda Chamber.

ADJOURN

The meeting concluded at 9:05 a.m. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy O'Hare