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**Chevy Chase Small Area Plan – Community Advisory Committee
Meeting #4 Notes: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 5:30-7:00pm**

Community Advisory Committee Attendees:

- Anthony Catalino, Office of Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh
- Commissioner Connie Chang, ANC 3/4G SMD05
- Commissioner Peter Gosselin, ANC 3/4G SMD06
- Robert Gordon, Chevy Chase Citizens Association
- Jerry Malitz, Chevy Chase Main Street Strategic Council
- Peter Lynch, Chevy Chase resident
- Renee Turner-Inman, Hawthorne resident
- Nancy Slade, Friends of Chevy Chase Circle
- Carl Lankowski, Historic Chevy Chase DC
- Steve Altman, Northwest Neighbors Village
- Karin Perkins, Ward 3 Ednet
- Ellen McCarthy, Ward 3 Vision
- Jamie Butler, WIN Ward 3 Congregations Affordable Housing Work Group

Absent:

- Aakash Thakkar, Chevy Chase resident
- Sara Swetzoff, Ward 3 Mutual Aid Network

DC Government Representatives:

- Erkin Ozberk, DC Office of Planning
- Heba ElGawish, DC Office of Planning
- Marth Saccocio, DC Public Library

Agenda:

- 1. Welcome & Introductions (10 minutes – led by Erkin)**
- 2. Recent events debrief/recap with lessons learned for ongoing engagement (30 minutes)**
 - 4/12 and 4/20 ANC Q&A with Dir Trueblood

Commissioners Gosselin and Chang discussed Director Trueblood's two attendances at the ANC's regular and special meetings to answer questions. Given the timing of the two meetings, much of the discussion at the Q&A revolved around Comp Plan and legal specifics of planning in DC. The ANC passed a resolution requesting no zoning changes before the Small Area Plan is completed.

- [4/27 Ward 3 Vision Affordable Housing Toolbox](#)

Ellen shared a brief summary of the event. CAC members shared some of their reflections and thought the program was overall successful in highlighting the financial complexity of building affordable housing and outlining some of the different tools developers use. Cmr Chang shared that the presentation by Patrick McAnaney of Somerset Development Company was particularly helpful and expressed interest in having Patrick present at a future ANC meeting, given his clear

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breakdown of affordable housing financing. Jamie suggests having lenders contribute to a future event with Patrick, as well as representatives DC Govt.

Ward 3 Vision is working on a follow up event about streetscape design (with a focus on Connecticut Avenue) with future times and speakers TBD.

- [4/28 HCCDC "Planning Our Future" Webinars](#)

Carl Lankowski's takeaway from the April 28 event was the relationship between the public and the McMillan Plan. The May 19 event is focused on racial geography, featuring local architect/historian Neil Flanagan. On June 9 the final event will feature a panel on affordable housing moderated by Uwe Brandeis of Georgetown University. The panel will take as a point of departure the ULI Advisory Services Panel report commissioned by DC Gov't in 2019, featuring the report's primary author, and with CAC discussants Ellen and Cmr Gosselin.

Cmr Chang asked about the purpose of the June 9 panel. Carl responded is to add specificity to the conversation started by the 4/28 Ward 3 Vision program.

- [5/5 CCCA Interview with Chairman Mendelson](#)

Robert shared that over 100 participants joined the conversation, now posted to the CCCA Youtube channel. Biggest takeaway for the interview was that Chairman Mendelson expressed his belief that no zoning changes would occur in the neighborhood before the small area plan is completed.

Erkin followed up noting that Council held their second vote on the Comprehensive Plan Amendment earlier that afternoon, and it passed with 13-0 votes.

- 5/15 OP pop-up at Farmers Market

Erkin and Heba shared their experience discussing the SAP at the Chevy Chase Farmers Market on Saturday. Takeaways were that many (but not all) people had heard about the planning process, and were interested in discussing affordable housing, the state of businesses on the Connecticut Avenue commercial strip, and school overcrowding. Erkin indicated that many people were thankful for OP's presence and multiple people noted misinformation in the community surrounding the plan.

Some additional opportunities for outreach were suggested, including posting notices at Broad Branch Market and Politics and Prose, as well as setting up a table outside the Starbucks.

- [Northwest Neighbors Village \(NNV\) Survey](#)

Steve indicated that the NNV catchment area is wider than Chevy Chase, but they designed a simple and straight forward survey for those over 60 that live in Chevy Chase to inform the CAC of any special concerns / needs that their constituency has. The survey will complement some research that NNV has been gathering around Age-Friendly cities. Also NNV posted a memo of NNV's role on the CAC. Two CAC members have taken NNV's survey so far. Erkin invited Steve to present the research and survey results at a future CAC meeting. The survey will be promoted through the end of May but may be available for longer.

3. Upcoming engagement activities, planned and proposed (30 minutes)

- ANC Forums on SAP Engagement

Cmr Gosselin indicated that ANC 3/4G passed a resolution to hold a large town meeting/session, and are making good progress on format following a meeting Erkin set up with OP's facilitation consultant LINK to provide the ANC with a "Digital Engagement 101" training covering some best practices in online engagement. The goal for the event is for residents to not just talk to OP, but to each other, as people trust their neighbors and would have a discussion in a civil, organized way, ideally in person. Erkin asked about the timing of the event, and whether it could coincide with future SAP milestones, particularly if the goal is to be in person (later date due to health protocols).

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Cmr Chang discussed the second part of the resolution on educational topics that can be covered in either a webinar style or a resource document to help answer some questions that are being raised or continue to be raised. Jerry expressed support for those two ideas to establish a common foundation of knowledge (such as a glossary of terms) and offered to assist.

4. 5/15 – 6/24 Visioning Survey and 6/5 – 6/10 SAP Visioning Workshops

Erkin and Heba discussed the Visioning Survey that's been launched on the project webpage and the Visioning Workshops scheduled for early June. The Visioning Survey is online and there have been some respondents as of the CAC meeting. The survey will be open through June 24.

The Visioning Workshops will be virtual on Zoom and are complementary to the Survey to provide community members an opportunity to have a more personal dialogue. Participants can sign-up for one of four sessions which have been scheduled during different times/days to accommodate diverse participation and will each run about 2 hours. The workshops will be emceed by LINK:

- Starting with a brief presentation by OP covering some SAP background and neighborhood facts, LINK will explain the small group activity and logistics of the break-out rooms.
- Break-out rooms will comprise two sets of questions – how people view their community, and then their aspirations for the future. Equity and inclusivity is a focal point. The conversations will explore the role that development could play in realizing these changes.
- LINK would facilitate the report-out from each break-out room so that other people can hear what has been shared in each break-out room.

CAC members were asked to help co-facilitate with OP staff in the breakout rooms and a CAC dry-run meeting has been scheduled in advance of the first workshop. Heba will send around an excel sheet so CAC members can assign themselves to different workshop times.

Ellen asked about whether there will be a design and/or opportunity site focus in the Workshops. Erkin and Heba responded that these will focus on higher level topics of “what” and “why” the plan will cover (vision) while a subsequent Design Charrette meeting will focus on the “how” and “where” these goals will be implemented.

Nancy asked about the difference between east and west side of Connecticut Avenue and whether expectations could be set around what is possible. Erkin indicated that the pre-workshop presentation materials could be more visual to help ground folks in the realities of potential development on the corridor.

Robert asked about clarity on the SAP deliverable. Erkin indicated he could direct CAC members to completed examples of SAPs on OP's website: <https://planning.dc.gov/neighborhoodplanning>

Cmr Gosselin asked how many people could attend the workshops. Heba responded that they were capped at 50 each (200 total) to ensure they could be adequately staffed.

Jerry asked what a successful participation rate would be for the survey, indicating that the ANC's 2019 survey garnered 683 responses. Erkin suggested a goal for the SAP Visioning Survey would be to surpass that, which would require all the CAC members to leverage their respective networks and help spread the word. Anthony noted he can share on CM's newsletter and Martha can share via DCPL too.

5. **Next Steps / Action Items / Other**

Carl shared that the ribbon cutting for Lafayette Pointer Park will occur at 11am on Saturday June 12 with the Mayor. Members congratulated HCCDC and all those who contributed to this important achievement.