

October 27, 2021



Chevy Chase Small Area Plan – Community Advisory Committee Meeting #7 Notes: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 7:30-9:00pm

Community Advisory Committee Attendees:

- 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
- Nancy Slade, Friends of Chevy Chase Circle
- Carl Lankowski, Historic Chevy Chase DC
- Karin Perkins, Ward 3 Ednet
- Ellen McCarthy, Ward3Vision
- Jamie Butler, WIN Ward 3 Congregations Affordable Housing Work Group

Absent:

- Anthony Catalino, Office of Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh
- Peter Lynch, Chevy Chase resident
- Aakash Thakkar, Chevy Chase resident
- Renee Turner-Inman, Hawthorne resident
- Sara Swetzoff, Ward 3 Mutual Aid Network
- Steve Altman, Northwest Neighbors Village

DC Government Representatives:

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

Agenda:

- 1. Welcome (5 minutes – led by Erkin Ozberk)**
- 2. Discussion of planning for the SAP Design Charrette (80 minutes – led by Heba ElGawish)**

Heba shared the purpose of the Design Charrette and how it fits within the plan development phase, covering the Charrette's proposed program, topics and timing. The Charrette is proposed to include three activities across different days over an approximate two-week period:

- Activity 1: Walking Tour (guided in-person and self-led virtual)
- Activity 2: Planning Tools Presentation and Break Out Group Discussions (virtual)
- Activity 3: Design Concepts Review (virtual)

The main topics to be covered in the Charrette are to include the gateway area near the Chevy Chase Circle, the "Civic Core" area comprising the District owned property with the library and community center, and the east and west sides of the commercial corridor. Across those four areas, design strategies addressing building form and a vibrant public life would be covered.

This presentation led to active discussion where all CAC members provided substantial feedback addressing the following:

October 27, 2021

- Design Charrette activities should anticipate substantial community participation and should be planned to manage large groups in person and/or online.
- Be sure to use relatable language when talking about places in the community.
- The need to share more lead up information that is educational/informational on design concepts and lingo.
- The holidays are a difficult time for community engagement and a strong desire to concentrate the main charrette meeting(s) in January, with walking tour(s) or other activities as lead-ups in November and December.
- Consideration to holding the charrette in-person subject to the COVID-19 health emergency and rate of community spread.
- The use of local/regional examples to show building form and pleasant streetscape design, such as the Park Van Ness building on Connecticut Avenue or the Pike and Rose development in North Bethesda.
- The use of national/international examples to demonstrate civic mixed-use buildings that include affordable housing.
- Illustrations and visuals shared during the charrette should also include modeling Chevy Chase specific sites along Connecticut Ave.

3. Discussion of the ANC Info Exchange Series (15 minutes – led by Commissioner Connie Chang)

Commissioner Chang shared an update on the ANC's Info Exchange Series, which has consisted of five events so far, hosted by various commissioners with guest panelists on topics including:

- Expert opinions on neighborhood planning activities
- Perspectives from residents in Chevy Chase's apartment and condo buildings
- Creative use of vacant retail space and outdoor markets
- The design and financial challenges of developing affordable housing projects in the DC area
- Community Land Trusts, Limited Equity Co-ops, and other more equitable models of housing development

The series has been well-received, advanced local understandings and discussions on SAP topics, and will continue.