



Chevy Chase Small Area Plan – Community Advisory Committee Meeting #3 Notes: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 7:30-9:00pm

Community Advisory Committee:

- 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
- Nancy Slade, Friends of Chevy Chase Circle
- Carl Lankowski, Historic Chevy Chase DC
- Ellen McCarthy, Ward 3 Vision
- Jamie Butler, WIN Ward 3 Congregations Affordable Housing Work Group
- Renee Turner-Inman, Hawthorne resident

DC Government Representatives:

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

Agenda

1. Introductions:

Erkin gave welcome remarks and described the agenda for the night. In response to previous requests from the CAC to curate the meeting agenda and organize their own meetings, the first portion of the meeting was primarily led by CAC members sharing upcoming events and activities that their respective groups are organizing with the Chevy Chase Small Area Plan (SAP) in mind. For the second portion of the meeting, the Office of Planning (OP) project team walked through planned public engagement activities for the coming weeks.

2. Historic Chevy Chase DC (HCCDC) Scheduled Activities in April and May

Carl Lankowski, president of HCCDC, shared with the group that the society was planning three “Zoominars”. Carl explained that the first webinar, scheduled for April 28th, aims to provide context and historical background so that the community can gain some perspective that could be helpful in generating a vision of where the community wants to go.

The second webinar scheduled for May 19th will look at how Chevy Chase relates to the rest of the City, from a historical perspective. A third webinar, scheduled for June 9th, will feature a panel of local activists and professional planners examining proffered solutions to the affordable housing needs in Ward 3 and in Chevy Chase in particular. More information on the webinar series can be found on the HCCDC website at <https://www.historicchevychasedc.org/>

3. Ward3Vision Affordable Housing Toolbox

Ellen McCarthy from Ward3Vision shared that the organization is putting together an event that will include experts and practitioners in the housing field to explore the different tools that could be used to increase housing affordability in Ward 3. Event details can be found at <https://ward3vision.org/>

4. Housing Discussion

Following the events that were shared by HCCDC and Ward3Vision, the CAC engaged in a discussion around housing affordability, aiming to address questions that came up from a number of CAC members. Robert Gordon, president of Chevy Chase Citizens Association (CCCA) expressed an interest in holding a webinar to include an invitation to Chairman Mendelson as well as three to four speakers with different perspectives on development, debating the benefits of density and development in Chevy Chase.

Housing Questions from CAC Members

What are the goals for affordable housing units?

Under the Mayor's Housing Framework for Equity and Growth (HFEG), affordable housing goals are established by Planning Areas in the Comprehensive Plan. For the Rock Creek West planning area, which includes Chevy Chase, the affordable housing goal is 1,990 units. More information can be found in the report at <https://housing.dc.gov/>

There is a sentiment around the city that "upFLUMing" and development projects are hurting real affordability. How does it pertain to what we are doing?

Expanded land use incentives through Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) and Planned Unit Developments (PUD) is one method to produce affordable housing. However, there are various methods that are outlined in the HFEG report such as financial subsidies and public-private partnerships. Different methods can be explored further through the SAP planning process.

General CAC Discussion

There was some discussion and debate amongst CAC members about what kinds of events would best support the SAP process and how to address topics like housing, affordability, development, and inclusivity in ways that would resonate with and include members of the community. One benefit of the diversity of perspectives on the CAC is that they could lead activities that would connect with different groups/interests, to broaden participation.

The group also suggested that the project webpage to be updated with schedule of events and include more FAQs that have been raised in previous CAC and public meetings. Additionally, the CAC recommended exploring other options to communicate with the community aside from the project webpage such as flyers and postcards.

5. OP Engagement Updates

The OP project team shared updates on upcoming engagement activities including:

- April 7 and 8 Virtual Office Hours
- ~~April 18 Ch/Art Outdoor Pop-Up Art Show~~ - Office of Planning was not able to participate at the event due to concerns that OP's presence may elicit independent actions negatively affecting the event and artists.
- May - Visioning Survey and Workshops. Dates to be determined.
- Summer – Design Charrette visualizing and modeling what the proposed land use along Connecticut Ave under the Future Land Use Map could look like.