

Olney Town Center

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee
Tuesday, April 28, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.
Olney Community Room, Olney, Maryland

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee (OTCAC) members in attendance: Jim Smith-Chair, Bob Beard, Mark Feinroth, Joe Fritsch, Paula Kahla, Walter Lee, Joe Buffington and Nancy DeLalio.

Others present: Bill Evans, The Lukmire Partnership; Don Scheuerman, MC-DGS; Joseph Eagan, Olney Library; Susanne Churchill, MC-DGS; Catherine Sheehan, MC-DGS; Rita W. Gale, MCPL
Khalid Afzal, Staff.

Call to Order/Acceptance of Agenda/Approval of Minutes/Announcements

Chair Jim Smith called the regular meeting of the OTCAC to order at 7:30pm. The agenda was accepted with the revision that Khalid would be late. The minutes of the February and March 2009 meetings would be reviewed upon Khalid's arrival.

Guest Presentation:

Bill Evans of the Lukmire Partnership presented the plans for the Olney Public Library renovations. The power point presentation will be posted on the public library website.

January 8th was the first of 3 meetings with the community to get input. Construction is currently planned to star in the fall of 2010 and be completed by 2012. County council approved 12.65 million in funding. The existing library was originally going to be expanded by an additional 4,000 sf with a mechanical upgrade, during development the program grew to 6,000 sf. The front trees are in a County tree save area which limits the footprint of the addition and restricts the ability to bring the building closer to the road per the MXTC principals. One design goal is to make it a more visible building. LEED silver minimum designation is a requirement of the county. There is a proposed new right turn lane which will need to be coordinated with Khalid and SHA.

Questions were raised about the entry sequence, storm water collection from roof and road. It was confirmed that compliance with the county requirements will be met. Sidewalk is currently designed at 6' wide.

Connections with the neighboring properties 'goat paths' is desired to make the library more accessible by pedestrians. Mark Feinroth suggested the neighboring HOA grant and easement to the county to install steps for pedestrian connections. An easement would be needed and would come to an agreement on what is wanted. Any connection would need to be ADA accessible. . Joe Buffington noted the east side of the library façade should be designed to engage the future re-development of the adjacent property.

Susanne Churchill is the project manager for the Library in Department of General Services and is the contact point on these issues.

Nancy DeLalio asked Khalid to send permitting requirements for submissions to the OTCAC for inclusion in the development design review process documents.

Khalid indicated that all public projects, county, state, federal are not subject to zoning.

The planning board guidelines are on their website.

Design Guidelines, areas of further study were outlined by Nancy DeLalio, suggested adding a paragraph on sustainability and environmental conscientiousness. Architectural materials section will need to be reviewed and potential to add some photos showing the “Best of Olney” examples were discussed. The conversation was started about the role of the guidelines as setting a minimum standard as well as how prescriptive they should be. It was concluded that more discussion was needed than could be conducted in the April meeting and would be revisited in May.

Walter Lee suggested an Art Avenue somewhere in Town Center.

Joe Fritsch asked if the County will be at the next meeting. Kelly Giacole (sp?) on the Park side looks at public private partnership with the Parks; it would be different than Olney’s situation. Parks Department has streamlined their process. Khalid responded that the Parks department has more experience with the Partnerships, Silver Spring Redevelopment Office, public private partnership – Gary Steith (?) Helene may be able to contact.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Report – Jim Smith reported that

Design Guidelines- Nancy DeLalio requested committee members to review the Design Guidelines prior to the May meeting to discuss the subtopics in depth and finalize the sections.

Illustrative Concept Plan Subcommittee – Nancy DeLalio had nothing new to report on the Concept plan.

Rules Subcommittee – Jim Smith noted no report.

Outreach Subcommittee – Bob Beard reported that the Subcommittee discussed the pedestrian flags for intersections at the last GOCA meeting. Jim Haddow and Bob will explore the options. Have a way for OTCAC to be Part of Olney Days, May 16th weekend. The displays of the concept plan have been taken down from public view at the Library.

Website Subcommittee – Helene Rosenheim reported that

High Priority Pedestrian Crossings Subcommittee – Helene Rosenheim report that their subcommittee

Redevelopment Committee – Mark Feinroth distributed, for review and comment, the topics for review for redevelopment / development proposal review. It was suggested to remove storm water management off the list as some of the items overlap with County requirements for

development review. Landscape, open space size and location were suggested to be added to the review list. A place holder was requested for materials.

Property owners subcommittee – Joe Buffington reported that he was interested in getting the property owners together with a small portion of the OTCAC as part of the meeting. Meet and greet open forum to discuss issues of owners. Mark Feinroth noted the Baltimore City Property Owners is another similar organization.

Pedestrian subcommittee - Bob reported for Helene that Joe Fritsch and David Eskanezi are to discuss issues. List of intersections for Jeff Dunkel is not completed.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Service project was proposed for Town Center for improvement for an area next January. Nancy DeLalio suggested the installation of the pedestrian safety crosswalk flags and an option. Khalid suggested painting the sidewalks.

Farmers market is May 10th.

Joe Fritsch resigned from the committee, his last meeting will be the May meeting, Helene has suggestions for his replacement on the committee. Joe will look for a candidate at the next meeting of Mid County Recreation; he expressed an interest and intention to stay active in subcommittees.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM

Submitted by Nancy DeLalio