Minutes of the Planning Commission Worksession 18 March 2020



Approved:

Attendees: Commissioners Georgette Cole, Charlie Challstrom, Robert Johnson (alternate), Deb Mehlferber, and Peter Nagrod, Historic Preservation members Bob Booher and Kirk Greenway, Woods Committee Co-Chair Joan Mahaffey, Mayor John Compton, and resident Donna Shriner.

Call to order 7:35 pm.

This meeting was held online using the Zoom Ap. Attendees could use the app to attend by video or telephone. Peter moved to approve the agenda; Charlie seconded. Vote 5/0.

Charlie moved approval of the 2/19 minutes; Peter seconded. Vote 5/0.

We received a letter from Marc and Peggy Hansen regarding the changes to Section 8 and a Section 8 modification from Charlie. A re-written Section 9 was submitted by the HPC.

The meeting began with Section 8 by discussing the potential issues of a special exception or an eating/drinking establishment. Opinions for and against were strongly expressed. In the end the PC agreed to seek expert advice regarding uses which could make the Commercial Corner more viable. Peter will contact such an expert to consult at our next work session. No changes were made to Section 8 as it currently stands but I will add a notice that it is a work in progress and NOT FINAL.

Section 9. Preservation and Development Strategies.

We reviewed all of HPC new Sec 9. Modest changes in wording were made in 9.1, 9.2, and 9.3. A new recommendation was added to 9.4. More information on the Archives work is still to come for 9.5. Slight modification to clarify the sole recommendation here. David Stopak is still working on Sec 9.7 (Infill Development and Re-development). Two recommendations related to mansionization were proposed and accepted. Sec 9.8 (Financial Incentives) is strongly suggested by the Maryland Historic Trust and was accepted. 9.9 (Connections with Neighbors and Viewsheds) was edited by HPC to bring it up to date. The changes and recommendations were accepted largely as presented.

It was briefly mentioned the Master Plan needs a section dealing with Green Energy Elements. Garrett Park or possibly Tacoma Park Master Plans might provide some ideas for Washington Grove.

Having finished Section 9 the session was adjourned by consensus at 9:45 pm.

We will resume review with Section 8 (Commercial Corner) in April. Followed by a brief review of Section 9, then go back to Section 2.2 and forward from there.

We have one completely new section (Emergency Preparedness and Safety) to add. We also need to review all done so far to identify areas still needing work and assign Commissioners to work on them.

Georgette will integrate the current changes into a 031820 draft for circulation to Commissioners and posting to the Town web site before the next work session.

Our next meeting will be April 15.

Submitted by Georgette Cole