

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
PRESS RELEASE**

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**COMMUNITY LEADERS, LOCAL EXPERTS EXPLORE
CHALLENGES TO PLANNING IN THE FUTURE**

SILVER SPRING, MD – The Montgomery County Planning Board and its planning staff, the Coalition for Smarter Growth and the Urban Land Institute and land use design experts gathered this evening at the Johns Hopkins University Shady Grove Campus with more than 150 residents, business and community leaders and others to discuss the challenges and opportunities in land planning in the future.

The first of three community discussions, the May 3 event focused on Community and Building Design featured a welcome and introduction to the series by Montgomery County Planning Board Chairman Derick P. Berlage. Faroll Hamer, acting director of the Montgomery County Planning Department, reaffirmed the goals of the General Plan: On Wedges and Corridors while navigating amid emerging trends and changing community needs.

Discussion moderator Ralph Bennett, president of Bennett, Frank, McCarthy Architects, led participants through three discussion sessions:

- Past and Future, a Planning Perspective, featuring Len Bogorad, managing director of Charles Lesser & Company, and Karl Moritz, Montgomery County's leading demographer and chief of the Research and Technology Center for Park and Planning
- Community Design Opportunities and Future Change, featuring Ralph Bennett's illustration of four contemporary best practices in planning
- Neighborhood Development Patterns, featuring Mike Watkins of Duany, Plater-Zyberk & Co., who directed planning for the neo-traditional Kentlands community, and John Carter, chief of Community-Based Planning Division for Park and Planning.

Speakers engaged the audience in a free-flowing discussion of their perceptions of community change and redevelopment followed by Ralph Bennett's observations and wrap up of the discussion.

More information is available online at the following websites:

www.mcparkandplanning.org then click on “A Framework for Planning in the Future”

www.mc-mncppc.org/research/data_library/montgomery_county_glance/ataglance.pdf

www.mc-mncppc.org/research/analysis/residential_capacity/rce2004.pdf

www.mwcog.org/store/item.asp?PUBLICATION_id=241

www.realitycheckwashington.org/pdf/RCfinalLR.pdf

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/04/02/AR2006040201268.html

www.rclco.com/demographic_changes.

On Wednesday, May 17 from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Johns Hopkins University, the second community discussion will focus on Growth and Planning in a mature community. To reserve a seat, those interested may call 301-495-2192 or email Margaret.gahelrasoul@mncppc-mc.org.

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