



MCPB 10/27/05

Item No. 12

October 18, 2005

Memorandum

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Jeff Zyontz, Chief, Countywide Park Planning

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SUBJECT: **2005 LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS, AND RECREATION PLAN
(LPPRP) PUBLIC HEARING**

Staff Recommendations

- Hold public hearing as scheduled on Thursday October 27, 2005
- Hold the record open for two weeks until November 10, 2005

Background

The Public Hearing Draft of the 2005 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) was presented to the Montgomery County Planning Board on September 15, 2005, at which time the Planning Board approved the document for the purposes of public hearing and set the Public Hearing Date for October 27, 2005.

Public Outreach

A second public forum was held in Germantown on September 28, 2005 to give upcounty residents an opportunity to provide input on the Plan (the first Public Forum was held at MRO on June 23). A Plan Summary was distributed and the Public Hearing Draft was available, and has also been placed on the Web. A summary of comments made during the forums will also be placed on the web in the near future.

Major public comments from the public and interest groups emphasized the need to preserve open spaces and protect natural and cultural resources and agricultural land, and maintain existing parks (particularly returning trash cans). Recreation facilities requested ranged from dog exercise areas, indoor tennis and motorized bicycle courses, to rectangular ball fields for soccer and lacrosse (particularly upcounty) and community recreation centers. The most requested facility was trails, with many people in favor of multi-use trails and many people against multi-use.

In addition to sending out a press release and placing a notice on the back of the agenda, Public Hearing notices have been mailed to all public forum participants and distributed to Recreation Advisory Board members.

Future Plan Worksessions

A worksession has been placed on the Planning Board agenda for Thursday December 1, 2005. At that time the Board will receive a summary of all Public Hearing testimony, comments at the Public Forums, and letters and e-mails on the Plan. Staff will recommend a response to those comments and indicate any changes made to the Plan..

A second worksession has been scheduled for Thursday December 15, to review the final Plan, prior to transmitting it to the Departments of State Planning and Natural Resources to meet the December 31, 2005 deadline.

Executive Summary

An executive summary to be included in the final plan has been attached to this memorandum.