



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

**APPROVED
MINUTES**

The Montgomery County Planning Board met on Monday, July 20, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Montgomery Regional Office in Silver Spring, Maryland, and adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Present were Chairman Royce Hanson, and Commissioners Jean Cryor and Amy Presley. Commissioner Joe Alfandre joined the meeting at 7:45 p.m. during discussion of Item 3.

Items 1 through 3 are reported on the attached agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Planning Board will be held on Thursday, July 23, 2009, in the Montgomery Regional Office in Silver Spring, Maryland.

M. Clara Moise
Technical Writer

Montgomery County Planning Board Meeting
Monday, July 20, 2009
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3760
301-495-4600

1. Public/Private Partnership between M-NCPPC and the Miracle League of Montgomery County

Development of a Miracle League baseball field in South Germantown Recreational Park located at the southwest quadrant of Germantown Park Drive and Schaeffer Road. Modification of the Parks Capital Improvements Program (CIP), Project Description Form #998712, "South Germantown Recreational Park: SoccerPlex Facilities" to include the Miracle League and to amend the scope of related improvements

Staff recommendation: Approval of Public/Private Partnership and submission of CIP amendment to County Council.

BOARD ACTION

Motion: PRESLEY/CRYOR

Vote:

Yea: 3-0

Nay:

Other: ALFANDRE ABSENT

Action: Approved staff recommendation for approval of the proposed public/private partnership and submission of a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) amendment to the County Council.

Parks Department staff briefly introduced Ms. Grace Fielder and Dr. James Leder, representatives of the Miracle League of Montgomery County, and Mr. Robert Brewer the League pro-bono attorney, who offered a multi-media presentation on the Miracle League's mission.

Ms. Trish Heffelfinger, Executive Director of the Maryland Soccer Foundation, offered testimony.

Representatives of the Miracle League of Montgomery County answered questions from the Board regarding cost estimates for building the proposed baseball park, and likely sources of funding, i.e., donors, sponsorship, endowment funds, etc..

There followed extensive Board discussion with questions to staff and the League representatives.

2. Enterprise Division Quarterly Fiscal Update

Enterprise Quarterly Report, end-of-the year update and future plans

Staff recommendation: Approval

BOARD ACTION

Motion: CRYOR/PRESLEY

Vote:

Yea: 3-0

Nay:

Other: ALFANDRE ABSENT

Action: Approved staff recommendation for approval of the enterprise quarterly report, end-of-the-year update, and future plans.

In keeping with the July 14 technical staff report, Parks Department staff offered a detailed presentation on the status of the Enterprise Funds for FY09 preliminary end-of-the-year actual. Staff noted that all items are being reviewed for potential savings and, despite the grim economic situation the community is enjoying the services of the Parks Department. The bottom line looks great thanks to the flea market recently introduced, the camp programs, and the train at Wheaton. Staff also added that the Cabin John Ice Rink is not performing as well as expected, and staff is reviewing the marketing plan to better serve the customers.

Chairman Hanson noted that the 40th Anniversary celebration of Brookside Gardens was a great success with an impressive crowd, and he wanted to thank staff on behalf of the Board for a job well done.

3. Limited Amendment - Preliminary Plan and Forest Conservation Plan No. 11997101A, Connelly School of the Holy Child

RE-2 zone; 11.95 acres; 2 lots previously approved for a religious school; request to modify the previously approved forest conservation plan to remove conservation easement; located on Bradley Boulevard, 400 feet west of Congressional Court; Potomac.

Staff Recommendation: Approval with conditions

BOARD ACTION

Motion: CRYOR/ALFANDRE

Vote:

Yea: 4-0

Nay:

Other:

Action: **Approved staff recommendation to approve, subject to revised conditions distributed by staff and discussed during the meeting, as stated in the attached Board Resolution.**

In keeping with the July 8 technical staff report, Development Review and Environmental Planning Divisions staff offered a detailed presentation of the request to amend the preliminary plan and forest conservation plan for the Connelly School of the Holy Child, a 11.95-acre property with two previously approved lots for a religious school, located on Bradley Boulevard, 400 feet west of Congressional Court in Potomac. Staff noted that the request is to modify the previously approved forest conservation plan to remove the conservation easement. Staff also noted that a list of revised conditions has been distributed to Board members and the applicant's representatives.

Ms. Barbara Sears, attorney representing the applicant, introduced members of the applicant's team, discussed the proposed amendment request, and concurred with the staff recommendation.

The following speakers offered testimony: Mr. Patrick Caulfield of Tara Road; Mr. Case Aiken of Hall Road; Ms. Brynn Raffensperger of Newport Avenue; Ms. Virginia Barnes of Glen Road and representing the West Montgomery Citizens Association.

Legal staff noted that a previous forest conservation violation was discussed with the school and it was necessary to agree on a settlement before the meeting today. The settlement agreement has been signed by the school and will become public as soon as it is signed by the Commission's Executive Director.

The Planning Department Director noted that a fine could have been issued but he believes that as a service to the community, it makes more sense to get two full scholarships for two under-privileged students who otherwise would not have been able to attend this institution.

3. Limited Amendment - Preliminary Plan and Forest Conservation Plan No. 11997101A, Connelly School of the Holy Child

Environmental Planning staff noted that the proposed mitigation will provide an increase of forest, will be inside the category I buffer, and will enhance and enlarge the existing forest. The existing trailers used by the school will be removed and the applicant will plant trees on the site. Staff further added that the plan is in compliance with Forest Conservation regulations, and the canopy area will be larger than proposed in the previous plan.

There followed extensive Board discussion with questions to staff, the applicant's representatives and the speakers.