

Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers

October 12, 2009

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Douglas B. Kamerow, Chair	Present
David L. Winstead, Vice Chair	Present
Robert L. Jones, Secretary	Present
Betsy Stephens, Assistant Secretary	Present
Gail S. Feldman, Treasurer	Present
Timothy J. Trifilo, Assistant Treasurer	Present
Peter M. Yeo, Board Member	Present

STAFF

David R. Podolsky, Legal Counsel	Present
Ronald M. Bolt, Assistant Legal Counsel	Absent
Shana R. Davis-Cook, Acting Village Manager	Present
Roy Gordon, Police Chief	Present
Michael W. Younes, Manager of Contracts and Capital Projects	Present
Demetri Protos, Finance and Accounting Specialist	Present
Grace Brock, Community Liaison/Administrative Assistant	Present

Dr. Douglas B. Kamerow, Chair of the Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Jones arrived at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Winstead arrived at 7:50 p.m.

Approval of the minutes from the Board's regular session held on September 14, 2009 and executive sessions held on September 14, 2009 and September 21, 2009. Amended minutes from the September 14, 2009 Executive Session were circulated to the Board at the meeting. Discussion followed.

Mr. Yeo made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board's regular meeting held on September 14, 2009, the amended minutes of the executive session on September 14, 2009, and the minutes of the executive session on September 21, 2009. Ms. Stephens seconded the motion. Mr. Yeo, Ms. Stephens, Ms. Feldman and Mr. Trifilo voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Winstead and Mr. Jones had not yet arrived. Dr. Kamerow was absent from the September 14, 2009 regular and executive session, and only voted to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2009 executive session. Mr. Yeo was absent from the September 21, 2009 executive session and only voted on the minutes of the September 14, 2009 regular sessions. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. Discussion followed.

Committee Reports

Environmental Committee

The Environmental Committee's report was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. Committee Chair Lawrence Heilman and the Board discussed the Committee's report regarding Green Vehicle Procurement and Use Policy.

Ms. Davis-Cook discussed the staff report generated in regard to the Committee's guidelines. She stressed that the staff believes the proposed measures outlined should remain as guidelines not policy. Discussion followed.

The Board approved the policy and directed staff to begin immediate implementation of the guidelines outlined in the policy and to report to the Board if and when specific guidelines cannot feasibly be achieved. Staff will also provide periodic reports to the Board on the status of implementation of the policy.

Resident Survey—Preliminary Results

Survey Committee Chair Megan Rupp presented the preliminary results for the Village's Resident Survey. This year, the response rate of the survey has risen to 60%. Ms. Rupp reported that 92% of residents endorsed the installation of induction light fixtures throughout the Village. She reported that 50 residents voted on sidewalks and they preferred #9 and # 6 sidewalk samples and also preferred the herringbone pattern. She also reported that 45% of residents supported the installation of a playground somewhere in the Village, 19% did not support the installation of a playground somewhere in the Village and 35% supported a playspace in the Village depending upon on factors such as design, landscaping and location. Discussion followed.

Proposed Play Area at Laurel Park

Mr. Yeo presented the plans for a proposed play area in Laurel Park. The presentation included two options. The first is a natural playscape that would blend easily with the existing landscape. The second option uses traditional commercially manufactured play equipment.

Alice Kinter, Chair of the Parks Committee, stated that her Committee opposed a play area in the Village. She suggested that an ad hoc Committee for playgrounds be formed before the Board decides to move forward with any play area proposal.

Cara Medeiros of 3 West Lenox Street stated that she is in favor of playgrounds in general, but is opposed to a playground in Laurel Park, due primarily to overcrowded parking and traffic in the area of the proposed playground.

David Valeck of 5412 Center Street stated that he is in favor of a playground at Laurel Park. He would like to see that space used more. He added that according to his research, property values would increase with the addition of a playground in the community.

Andy Steinberg of 5 West Lenox Street stated that he is in favor of a playground, but he is opposed to a playground in Laurel Park because it will disrupt the natural wildlife and aesthetic.

Risa May of 5801 Kirkside Drive stated that she is in favor of a playground in the Village because it would create a sense of community.

John Colby of 6000 Connecticut Avenue said he is in favor of playgrounds, but is opposed to a playground at Laurel Park due to traffic concerns.

Rob Nichols of 102 East Lenox Street stated that he is in favor of a playground at Laurel Park because it would create a sense of community.

David Jones of 15 Primrose Street stated that he is not opposed to playgrounds, but is opposed to a playground in Laurel Park. He suggested that the playground instead be installed on the Wohlfarth Property.

David Allen of 120 Grafton Street stated that he is in favor of a playground at any location in the Village because it would create a sense of community.

Gillian Trattner of 4023 Oliver Street stated that she supports open green spaces and playgrounds, but does not support a playground in the Village. She would like to preserve the green spaces in the Village.

Kristen Best of 3810 Bradley Lane stated that she is in favor of a playground at Laurel Park. She would like to have a playground that is in walking distance for residents who live east and west of Connecticut Avenue. She also stated that the toddler group and other CYF activities would benefit from the playground as well.

Dave Mohler of 3 West Irving Street stated that he is opposed to a playground at Laurel Park. He would like to preserve the green space. He also stated that the area around Laurel Park is very dangerous due to heavy traffic.

Ralph Stephens of 11 Magnolia Parkway stated that he is in favor of a playground because playgrounds typically bring communities together.

Margot Anderson of 1 West Irving Street stated that she is opposed to a playground being installed in any of the already existing parks in the Village. She questioned why the Wohlfarth Property has not been suggested as a possible location for a playground.

Emily Zenick of 118 Grafton Street stated that she would like a playground anywhere in the Village. She feels that if the Village can have a park for dogs, then the Village should have a playground for children.

Environmental Committee Chair Lawrence Heilman stated that he is opposed to a playground at Laurel Park, but is in favor of a playground at the Wohlfarth Property. He also stated that going forward, the Environmental Committee would like to be involved in the planning process of a possible playground.

Megan Rupp of 3 Newlands Street and 7 West Kirke Street stated that she is opposed to a playground at Laurel Park, and thought that the Wohlfarth Property is a better location for a playground.

Matthew Yeo of 5418 Grove Street stated that the Wohlfarth Property is primarily owned by Montgomery County and that the Village would have to receive concurrence from Montgomery County before a playground is considered at the Wohlfarth Property. Mr. Yeo stated that he supports a play area, preferably a natural playscape option.

Dan Coughlan of 20 West Lenox Street stated that he is opposed to a playground at Laurel Park.

Susie Eig of 34 West Kirke Street is opposed to a playground in Laurel Park and feels that the Board should focus on making Laurel Park safer instead of installing a playground.

Tom Toch of 19 West Kirke Street stated that he is opposed to a playground at Laurel Park due to traffic congestion.

Kathy McMackin of 5 West Melrose Street stated that she is opposed to a playground in Laurel Park and that she would like to preserve the open space.

Saul Goodman of 5515 Cedar Parkway stated that he was on an ad hoc Playground Committee 15 years ago and that the conclusion of the Committee was that there was not an appropriate place for a playground in the Village. Discussion followed.

The Board approved the creation of an ad hoc Playspace Committee. The Committee's initial mandate from the Board is to assess suitable locations for a playspace in the Village. The Committee, Chaired by Board Secretary Robert (Bob) Jones, will then report back to the Board on its findings.

The Board unanimously agreed to approve the formation of an ad hoc Playground Committee with Mr. Bob Jones as Chair of the Committee.

Decision on Previous Appeals

None.

Appeals

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Chevy Chase Center Project and Development Plans

Ms. Davis-Cook reported on proposed changes to the Chevy Chase Center which include additional green space, and exterior seating areas and modifications to Farr Park and the taxi stand area. Discussion followed.

Public Hearing – Electronic Control Devices (Tasers)

Chief Roy Gordon gave a presentation on tasers and how acquisition of the technology would benefit his department's operations.

Mr. Herb Geller of 5602 Grove Street stated that though Chief Gordon runs a wonderful police force, he does not feel that tasers are needed here in the Village due to very low crime rates.

Peter Kilborn of 4007 Oliver Street stated that he is opposed to tasers in the Village because they are dangerous and could kill someone. He also stated that the low crime rates in the Village indicate that tasers are not needed.

Saul Goodman Chair of the Public Safety Committee stated that his Committee had discussed tasers approximately 3 years ago in the context of budgetary discussions.

Angela Lancaster of 17 West Kirke Street asked if given only one choice, would Chief Gordon prefer use of tasers or guns. Chief Roy Gordon answered that he would choose the use of guns.

The Board asked the Public Safety Committee to investigate independent studies that may have been done on electronic control devices and their effects, and to report back to the Board with its findings at the December regular Board Meeting.

Chairman's Report

None.

Manager's Report

None.

Police Report

None.

Mr. Yeo made a motion to adjourn the open meeting and to convene in closed session pursuant to State Government Article Section 10-508 (a) (7) to consult with Counsel to obtain legal advice on legal matters, namely pending litigation (Cary M. Euwer, Jr. vs. Chevy Chase Land Company, et al), proposed amendments to adjacent retail development property (Chevy Chase Center) and recently enacted legislation (Senate Bill 277) and pursuant to State Government Article Section 10-508 (a) (1) (i) to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of a new Village Manger, an appointee, employee or official over whom it has jurisdiction. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Winstead, Dr. Kamerow, Ms. Feldman, Ms. Stephens, Mr. Jones, Mr. Yeo and Mr. Trifilo voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

Secretary, Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers

Final