

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Middle School #2 Site Selection Advisory Committee

Summary of Meeting of Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Cafeteria
7:00 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

Opening of Meeting

Site Selection Advisory Committee (SSAC) representatives were directed to sit in the first two rows of seating as they arrived. Members of the general public were directed to seats behind the front two rows. A packet of materials provided to each SSAC member included the following:

- a listing of SSAC members with their affiliation;
- a narrative summary of the January 11, 2012 meeting;
- a transcription of the pros and cons of candidate sites as they were recorded on flip charts at the previous meeting, showing how each comment lined up with the eight site selection criteria;
- a copy of the site selection criteria;
- several items of correspondence related to candidate sites and the site selection process; and;
- candidate site property maps, aerials and fact sheets for the public candidate sites remaining under consideration.

The above-referenced materials are posted on the Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) website at the following address:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/REM/

Ms. Della Stolsworth, meeting facilitator, welcomed committee members and took attendance. Forty members of the SSAC were present out of a total of 47 members.

Review of Committee Materials and Follow-ups

Mr. Bruce Crispell, director, Division of Long-range Planning, Department of Facilities Management, MCPS discussed feedback that was received following the first SSAC meeting and how it will be addressed in meetings going forward. Mr. Crispell clarified that the discussion of candidate sites remaining on the table will continue until all SSAC members are satisfied that they have fully expressed all the pros, cons, and issues that they see with each candidate site. Mr. Crispell then reviewed the site selection criteria and responded to clarifying questions.

Mr. Crispell addressed a follow-up question concerning the restrictions that use of Program Open Space (POS) funds have on two candidate sites—the Rock Creek Hills Local Park and Rosemary Hills/Lyttonsville Local Park. In the case of Rock Creek Hills Local Park, POS funds were used to develop the park; and in the instance of Rosemary Hills/Lyttonsville Local Park, POS funds

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were used to purchase a portion of the parkland. Included in the committee materials was a January 20, 2012, memorandum from superintendent of schools, Dr. Joshua P. Starr, to members of the Board of Education. Attached to this memorandum was a November 4, 2011, letter from Mr. John R. Griffin, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, to Mr. John Robinson, president of the Rock Creek Hills Citizens Association. The memorandum and letter indicated that the use of POS funds to develop the Rock Creek Hills Local Park nearly 20 years ago is not an impediment to reclaiming the site for a school—should this be the location that is selected. Mr. Crispell stated that use of POS funds to purchase a portion of the Rosemary Hills/Lyttonsville Local Park does create restrictions for conversion of that property from anything but park use.

Mr. William Gries, land acquisition specialist, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Department of Parks, then addressed follow-up questions on the status of candidate sites that are parks, from the perspective of the owner of these parks, the M-NCPPC. Mr. Gries discussed the following two letters that were included in SSAC materials:

- The first letter discussed was from Ms. Francoise M. Carrier, chair, Montgomery County Planning Board, dated April 27, 2011, to Mr. Christopher S. Barclay, then president, Montgomery County Board of Education. In this letter, Ms. Carrier, referring to the first site selection process for the new middle school, expressed concern over the inclusion of any park property for consideration as a school site. Ms. Carrier concludes that, “Parks should not be available at all for non-park purposes except in the most extraordinary circumstances.”
- The second letter discussed was from Ms. Carrier to Ms. Shirley Brandman, current president, Board of Education, dated December 22, 2011. In this letter, Ms. Carrier gave the names of the individuals from the Department of Parks and the Department of Planning who would serve as representatives on the SSAC. Ms. Carrier requested that any SSAC recommended sites go through the mandatory referral process at the Planning Board prior to the Board of Education taking action on a site. Finally, Ms. Carrier strongly encouraged the committee and the Board of Education to take a hard look at options that do not include parkland.

Mr. Fred Boyd, community planner, M-NCPPC, Department of Planning, presented information on the mandatory referral process and its advisory nature. Mr. Boyd responded to follow-up questions concerning forest conservation issues and the restrictions that exist on removal of trees at candidate sites.

Considerable time was taken providing the information described above and addressing clarifying questions. Ms. Stolsworth determined that instead of continuing with the plan to go over the public candidate sites first, and then the private sites, it would be best to use the remaining time to focus on the private candidate sites. This approach provided all SSAC members with a complete overview of all candidate sites so that at the next meeting discussions,

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and possible elimination of sites, could be made with the knowledge of all the site options available to the SSAC. Prior to the closed session, Ms. Stolsworth provided time for comments from observers.

A vote was taken to close the meeting in accordance with State Government Article, Title 10, Subtitle 5, Section 10-508 of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. The vote to proceed to close the session carried by a vote of 39 members to one member, in favor of closed session. See the following page for a tally of the vote taken by SSAC members.

The closed session began at 8:20 p.m. and the SSAC meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

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B-CC Middle School #2 Site Selection Advisory Committee				
Vote to go into closed session to consider private property candidate sites: January 25, 2012				
Parent and Teacher Associations		Vote for Closed Session January 25, 2012		
Representative Names	Affiliation	Yes	No	Absent from meeting
Craig Brown	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster Coord.	X		
Mary Cobbett	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster Coord.	X		
Michelle Hainbach	Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School	X		
Teresa W. Murray	B-CC Cluster Parent Council		X	
Lauri Rosen	Westland Middle School	X		
Rebecca Rubin	Bethesda Elementary School	X		
Dana Wright	Chevy Chase Elementary School	X		
Sabrina McMillian	North Chevy Chase Elementary School	X		
Karen Sommer Shalett	Rock Creek Forest Elementary School	X		
Rafe Petersen	Rosemary Hills Elementary School	X		
Missy Walker	Somerset Elementary School	X		
Karen Thornton	Westbrook Elementary School	X		
Homeowner Associations				
Representative Names	Affiliation	Yes	No	Absent from meeting
Sandra Van Bochove	Rock Creek Hills Citizens Association	X		
Ken Strickland	Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Association	X		
Jack Hayes	East Bethesda Citizens Association	X		
Fritz Hirst	Rollingwood Citizens Association	X		
Tim Wolf	Rock Creek Forest Citizens Association	X		
Charlotte Coffield	Lyttonville Citizens Association	X		
Lynn Amano	Rosemary Hills Neighbors' Association	X		
Lisa Gerhardt	North Woodside Montgomery Hills			X
Melissa Polito	Linden Civic Association	X		
Sally Goldblum	Westbard Mews	X		
Municipalities				
Representative Names	Affiliation	Yes	No	Absent from meeting
Linna Barnes	Town of Chevy Chase			X
Paula Fudge	Town of Chevy Chase View	X		
Jill Watson	Chevy Chase Village			X
Julian Mansfield	Village of Friendship Heights			X
John Thompson	Town of Kensington	X		
Peggy Enright	Village of North Chevy Chase	X		
Wendy Eaton	Section 3 of the Village of Chevy Chase	X		
Greg White	Section 5 of the Village of Chevy Chase	X		
Bill Farley	Town of Somerset	X		
County Agencies				
Representative Names	Affiliation	Yes	No	Absent from meeting
MNCPPC:				
Fred Boyd	Montgomery County Dept. of Planning	X		
William Gries	Montgomery County Dept. of Parks	X		
County Executive				
Jeff Bourne	Dept. of Recreation	X		
LaKisha Giles	Office of Management & Budget			X
Bruce Johnston	Dept. of Transportation	X		
Rob Klein	Dept. of General Services			X
County Council				
Keith Levchenko	Montgomery County Council	X		
Montgomery County Public Schools				
Representative Names	Affiliation	Yes	No	Absent from meeting
Christopher S. Garran	Office of School Performance	X		
Daniel J. Vogelman	Westland Middle School	X		
Karen D. Anderson	Division of Construction			X
Bruce Crispell	Division of Long-range Planning	X		
Dennis F. Cross	Division of Construction	X		
Michael J. Shpur	Division of Construction	X		
William L. Stapleton	Dept. of Transportation, Bethesda Depot	X		
Deborah S. Szyfer	Division of Long-range Planning	X		
Janice M. Turpin	DFM, Real Estate Management Team	X		