

Council of the Town of La Plata  
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland  
Work Session  
September 18, 2007, 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd; Michelle D. Miner, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### Matters of Council Discussion

#### Design Review Board membership

*Description: The Council will discuss including an Alternate Member on the Design Review Board.*

During discussion, Cheryl McGuire, Chairman of the Design Review Board, was asked her opinion of providing for an Alternate Member on the Board. Ms. McGuire stated that providing for an Alternate Member was a good idea and suggested that the Alternate Member not be required to be a Town resident.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to introduce an ordinance at the September 25 meeting to alter the composition of the Design Review Board membership by converting one regular membership to be an Alternate Member, and that the ordinance would be effective on December 6.

#### Banner sign regulations

*Description: The Council will review/discuss amendments to the banner sign regulations which have been requested by the La Plata Business Association (LPBA.)*

Butch Hunt, speaking as a business owner and as Vice President of the LPBA, Jim DiMisa, President of the LPBA, and Wayne Winkler, business owner and member of the LPBA, presented information in support of the LPBA's requested amendments to the banner sign regulations, to provide for having a penalty for exceeding the permit period for display rather than paying a permit fee, or having a one-time only fee for a banner, at a rate set by the Town. They also requested an amendment to allow the display time period to be increased from 21 days to 60 days, with the number of times a banner may be displayed reduced from 6 times per year to 4 times per year. During their presentation, they noted that County regulations allow banners with no fee and that La Plata businesses are at a disadvantage when County businesses are allowed to put up banners and La Plata businesses have limits.

Council consensus: The Town Council directed staff to research County sign regulations in their entirety, and agreed to consider amending the display period to 45 days, 4 times per year.

Matters of Information

Councilwoman Mudd asked that a proposal for Town Hall landscaping be brought to the September 25 meeting to award a bid for the landscaping project. Mayor Ambrogio advised that Mr. Mears was working on this, noting that the landscaping work was postponed until after the last concert and movie events were held on the lawn.

Future Work Session Topics

- Sprinklers in commercial buildings issue (Famous Footwear)

There being no other business, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 PM. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

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Judith T. Frazier  
Town Clerk