

La Plata Planning Commission
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting
September 6, 2011, 7:00 PM

Present: Chairman Rich Gilpin, Keith A. Hettel, Garyton C. Echols, Jr., Debra W. Posey, C. Keith Back, Mary Grant – Commission members; David M. Jenkins, Director of Planning and Community Development; Danielle Mandley, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Theresa Dent, Senior Planner

Minutes:

Chairman Gilpin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and asked Councilman Back to lead the Commission and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of August 2, 2011 minutes

Mr. Hettel moved to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2011 meeting. Mr. Echols seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

► Matters of Discussion

- La Plata Volunteer Rescue Squad: Request for Site Plan Approval

Mr. Jenkins summarized the staff report regarding the La Plata Volunteer Rescue Squad request for site plan approval, and stated that the correct name of the project is “Charles County Rescue Squad”.

Dennis Riggs, Lorenzi, Dobbs & Gunnil, and R.J. Earnshaw, representing the applicant, presented the La Plata Volunteer Rescue Squad [name as shown on the site plan] site plan for approval. The presentation included information regarding the various approvals as required by the Charles County Soil Conservation District, and outlined the proposed plan.

Mr. Echols moved to approve the La Plata Volunteer Rescue Squad Site Plan as presented. Mr. Hettel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Commission Education and Training: Topics and scheduling

Mr. Jenkins provided a description of possible Commission education/training topics based on American Planning Association CD’s, which may include: Informed Decisions; Updating the Zoning Ordinance; Mechanics of Code Writing, and; Site Plan Review for Officials.

Commission Consensus: Following discussion the Commission agreed to schedule education and training topics on each agenda as time permits and to start with Updating the Zoning Ordinance.

► Other Business

- Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Chairman Gilpin opened the floor to nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman to serve a one year term.

Mr. Echols moved to nominate Ms. Posey to serve a one year term as Chairman of the Planning Commission. Mr. Hettel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, and the nominations were closed.

Mr. Echols moved to nominate Chairman Gilpin to serve a one year term as Vice Chairman of the Planning Commission. Councilman Back seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote, and nominations were closed.

- Council Updates – Councilman Back

Councilman Back provided information regarding the introduction of an Ordinance to amend the sanitation section of the Town Code, the adoption of an Ordinance to amend the Community Design Guidelines, and an additional hearing regarding the Johel petition for annexation.

- Planning and Community Development Project Updates – David M. Jenkins

Mr. Jenkins provided an update on: The extension of the Plan Maryland comment period, re-modeling of the old Civista Hospital, the construction of the new building on the site of the Charles County Nursing Center, internal staff work on community guides, procedures for permit review, revisions to the Town web site to include a Planning and Community Development tab, and the hiring of a Manager of Inspections.

Chairman Gilpin expressed his regret for the resignation of Keith Hettel as a member of the Planning Commission, and thanked Mr. Hettel for his years of service..

► Future Agenda Items

Commission Education and Training Topics

- Updating the Zoning Ordinance;
- Informed Decisions;
- Mechanics of Code Writing, and;
- Site Plan Review for Officials.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Hettel moved to adjourn at 7:37 PM. Vice Chair Posey seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Danielle Mandley
Town Clerk