



Annual Report to The Mayor And Council

Board: Advisory Planning Commission

By: Stephanie Stullich, Chair

Date: December 9, 2022 Period Covered: January – December 2022

I. What is the Purpose of the Board? (As stated in the City Codes or establishing Resolution)

According to Section 15-19 of the City Code, the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) is charged with:

- Making recommendations to the Mayor and Council regarding zoning applications including departures and variances.
- Hearing appeals related to City building codes.
- Providing analysis and input relative to County and University plans and studies.
- Proposing workable solutions for community problems related to zoning, building, and development codes.

II. Provide an update on the previously approved Workplan (if applicable) that lists and briefly describes progress and outcomes during the past year in support of this purpose.

The APC is exempt from filing a workplan, as determined by the Mayor and Council. The following is a summary of activities during the past reporting period.

- The APC met 10 times (once every month, except in March and July). APC returned to in-person hybrid meetings on June 2, 2022.
- Public hearings were held on 5 applications, including 4 variance requests and 1 request for a fence variance. The most common variance requests were from front and side yard setbacks (3) and lot coverage (2). These applications are summarized in the table below.

Application #	Hearing Date	Location	Variances				Departures	
			Lot Coverage	Setback	Parking in front yard	Fence	Free-standing sign	Parking spaces & driveway
Total		5	2	3	0	1	0	0
CPV-2022-01	1-6-22	5007 Quebec Street		1				
CPV-2022-02	2-3-22	6909 Rhode Island Ave.	1					
CPV-2022-03	8-4-22	5004 Navahoe Street		1				
CPV-2022-04	11-3-22	9703 52 nd Avenue	1	1				
CEO-2022-01	5-3-22	5011 Fox Street				1		

- One new member was appointed, Michael Meadow (District 3), and his first meeting was in February. Orientation materials were provided including the requirement for taking the Planning Commissioner Training Course provided by the State of Maryland.
- The APC held one Informational Presentation on June 2, 2022, where residents and civic associations were invited to join to learn more about a development proposal at 7131 Baltimore Avenue by Tony Akaras and to express their comments and opinions. Minutes were taken to reflect the questions, answers, and discussion between the Applicant, APC members, and the public.
- At the September 1, 2022 APC meeting, College Park Senior Committee members Robert Thurston, Mary Hakes and Bonnie McClellan attended to discuss the proposed draft Age-Friendly Action Plan. Their presentation detailed the visions, goals, objectives and recommended actions for improving the quality of life for seniors in the City. The APC discussed these in detail and subsequently approved written comments to submit to the Committee.

III. Provide a recommended work plan that lists and briefly describes goals, objectives, and tasks for the upcoming year in support of the purpose. Workplans must be approved by the City Council.

Not Applicable. The Advisory Planning Commission is not required to submit a work plan.

IV. Please identify any issues or problems that you want to bring to the attention of the City Council.

The APC feels that it is valuable to have in-person meetings, but at the same time, it is also convenient for some commissioners, applicants, and members of the public to have the option to participate remotely. The APC began having hybrid meetings in June 2022, but existing technology makes this approach somewhat awkward, because there is not great visibility of speakers who are present in the physical meeting room. We suggest that the Mayor & Council, and staff, look into whether there are technology options that make hybrid meetings function more smoothly for all participants.