

Planning Commission Meeting
May 11, 2011
Verbatim Excerpt

AR 01-H-001-02 – HIU NEWCOMB FAMILY LLC (Dranesville District)

After the Close of the Public Hearing

Chairman Murphy: Without objection, the public hearing is closed; recognize Mr. Donahue.

Commissioner Donahue: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've enjoyed every minute of the 10 years, and we're sorry to lose you very much so. Eighteen months ago it was when we talked about this application, and I've never seen a situation where so many people wanted to get to the resolution we're finally getting to tonight 18 months later. And we thank you for your work, and we thank the County Attorney for the work that had to be done. I'm not going to get into the details of that whole thing. We're just - - we're just happy it's turned out this way. It is a great property. Its intention is to maintain the scenic and low density residential character of the area. More than 50 percent of this property, I understand, is in environmental control parcels and other type of Resource Protection Areas. The AFD Advisory Committee voted in favor of this Renewal, Mr. Chairman, on April 12th. And I want to read something to you. I don't know how many - - it's going to take a very short time - - I don't know how many of you saw *The Washington Post* Food section this morning, but it went into great detail about things that are going to have to change nationally, domestically, and internationally if we're going to continue to feed ourselves. I want to point to page - - a paragraph on page 4 of the staff report, which says as follows: "The method of farming practiced at this farm does not involve the use of commercial fertilizer or pesticide at any stage of growth. By growing a wide variety of crops, rotating the types of crops planted in the various plots, and by using timely and appropriate practices, insect invasion and disease damages are kept to acceptable minimums. These soil conservation practices should be continued under the property's Soil and Water Conservation Plan. In addition, streams and drainage swales and the RPA should be left undisturbed with natural vegetative buffers, as outlined in the Plan." And I thought the timing of today's news article and this hearing tonight were - - were quite good for reasons that I think are made obvious in that paragraph. So, Mr. Chairman, I MOVE THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THAT AR 01-H-001-02 BE APPROVED AND APPENDIX F OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CODE BE AMENDED TO RENEW THE POTOMAC VEGETABLE FARM II LOCAL AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTAL DISTRICT, SUBJECT TO ORDINANCE PROVISIONS DATED APRIL 27, 2011.

Commissioners Sargeant and de la Fe: Second.

Chairman Murphy: Seconded by Mr. Sargeant and Mr. de la Fe. Is there a discussion of that motion? All those in favor of the motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that it approve AR 01-H-001-02, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? Motion carries. Thank you very much. May all the Dranesville applications henceforth be this simple. Save the doughnut money.

//

(The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Alcorn and Hall absent from the meeting.)

KAD