

# Board of Supervisors Land Use Policy Committee

March 12, 2024

Government Center Conference Room 11

## ***Board of Supervisors (Board) Members present:***

Jeff McKay, Chairman  
James Walkinshaw, Braddock District  
James Bierman, Jr., Dranesville District  
Rodney Lusk, Franconia District  
Walter Alcorn, Hunter Mill District  
Andres Jimenez, Mason District  
Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District  
Dalia Palchik, Providence District  
Pat Herrity, Springfield District  
Kathy Smith, Sully District (Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair)

The Land Use Policy Committee (Committee) meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

The summary of the February 27, 2024, Committee meeting was accepted without change.

## **Data Centers:**

Tracy Strunk, Director, Department of Planning and Development (DPD) presented information related to data centers as a follow-up to the presentation to the Committee in October 2023 and the staff report dated January 9, 2024. Also in attendance were Leslie Johnson, Zoning Administrator, Zoning Administration Division (ZAD), DPD, Carmen Bishop, Deputy Zoning Administrator, ZAD, DPD, and Katie Hermann, Branch Chief, Planning Division, DPD.

Ms. Strunk described the existing Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan provisions, regulations and use standards applicable to development of such uses. She further described potential near-term enhancement to the use standards in the Zoning Ordinance, Comprehensive Plan updates, timeline for amendments and feedback.

Discussion ensued with input from staff regarding the locations and districts for by-right vs, Special Exceptions, strengthening the development standards for by-right uses, the criteria for Special Exceptions, the benefits and expedited timeline for the Zoning Ordinance amendment, and the need for a subsequent Comprehensive Plan amendment. The Committee discussed existing and potential development standards regarding environmental standards, including energy usage and efficiency, water quality, and noise; the design of data centers including size, height, aesthetics and location with respect to residential uses; time for approval of development plans and enforcement of requirements.

The committee discussed the nature of, and reasons for, the Zoning Ordinance amendment, and the importance of targeting adoption in July (before the August break), understanding that to meet that goal the citizen outreach will need to be consolidated – inviting many people and groups to central meetings rather than meeting with individual committees and groups. With the concurrence of the Committee, staff will continue with amendment process on the timeline as discussed.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.