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BOARD MATTER
Community Council on Land Use Engagement
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As this Board knows, the way we engage with the community has changed over time and continues to evolve. Since I've been on the Board we have moved from a paper-driven organization to a digital one.

With the volume of information County residents receive in multiple ways, a message can be lost or the amount of information received is so voluminous as to be overwhelming. We all sometimes hear from residents, particularly in the area of land use, that they were unaware or felt uninformed about a pending decision before the Board which could have an impact on their community.

While we do a lot of communicating, are we doing so in the most helpful and effective ways? To learn the answer to that question, I would like to invite our community to participate in a dialogue to explore how we can improve our engagement on land use.

Beginning in February I will be hosting a **Community Council on Land Use Engagement**. This ad hoc group will meet approximately 5 times and will produce a set of recommendations on ways to improve Fairfax County's public outreach and community engagement in the land use and development process. Discussions will begin with a history of planning and zoning in Fairfax County to be followed by a 101 on Land Use.

I ask that Board members consider who in their districts you would like to be considered to serve on the Community Council. I encourage you to look beyond just those with land use experience. Community members who are

professional communicators, or who are looking to become more involved in their community, could bring fresh perspective and new ideas to the Council. My goal is to convene a group with a diversity of thought and experience.

The first meeting of the Community Council will be held on Monday, February 13 at 7:30pm in Rooms 4/5 of the Government Center. Please see the attached draft syllabus for more information and the complete schedule.

This year, Fairfax County is embarking on two additional efforts to improve community engagement on land use.

First, Fairfax County is participating with the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Washington in a high level fellowship program from February to September to determine how Fairfax County can get broader community engagement in land use decisions and measure our success in doing so.

Second, as you all know the County engaged Gartner to review our land use processes in 2015. The implementation process of the Gartner recommendations, called Fairfax First, is underway. Project 10 focuses on citizen engagement and that group is being formed and should begin its work in early spring. The Community Council on Land Use Engagement will coordinate with, and complement, this effort.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON LAND USE ENGAGEMENT

Goal: To produce a set of recommendations that would improve Fairfax County's public outreach and community engagement in the land use and development process.

All meetings will be held on Mondays at 7:30pm in Rooms 4/5 at the Fairfax County Government Center

Meeting 1 February 13th **Orientation (20 minutes)**

- Introductions
- Discussion of Purpose of the Council (Sharon Bulova)

History of Planning and Zoning and Community Outreach (1 hour)

- The Current Zoning Ordinance (1978)
 - "Pause for Planning," Court Cases
- The Comprehensive Plan
 - The Plus Plan (1975)
 - Fairfax Planning Horizons (1990-1991)
 - Concept for Future Development
 - Policy Plan
 - Annual Plans Review (1970s)
 - Area Plans Review (1990s-2013)
 - Fairfax Forward (2013-2016)

Meeting 2 February 27th **Land-Use 101 (1.5 hours)**

- The Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance
 - Policy Plan, Area Plans, Map, Transportation Map, Trails Map
 - Zoning Categories and their Regulations
- By-Right, Proffers, Development Conditions, Plans (CDP, FDP, Site Plans)
 - Processes to Change How Land is Used
 - Rezoning, Special Exceptions, Special Permits, Interpretations, Proffer Condition Amendments
- Amending the Zoning Ordinance
- Amending the Comprehensive Plan
- Enforcement
 - Code Compliance

- Other Rules, Regulations or Laws
 - Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance
 - Erosion and Sediment Control Law
 - Public Facilities Manual

Meeting 3, March 13th

The Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission (1 hour)

- Land Use Committees and District Councils
- Public Hearings
- Community Presentations

The Developer Perspective (20 minutes)

- Representative of NAIOP/NVBIA or land use attorney

Meeting 4, March 27th

Breakout Sessions/Focus Groups and Full Council Discussion (2 hours)

These will be led by OCR facilitators who run design charrettes. The Council can also develop its own questions in addition to these. Answers will be discussed by full Council and will form the basis of the report to the Board of Supervisors

- How do you currently find out about County government activity (land use, voting, parks and recreation, special events, etc.)?
- What can the County do to better keep you informed and educated about land use decisions that are important to you?
- How can the County reach out to people who are not currently informed about or engaged in the land use activities?
- What have you heard or seen from other places you think Fairfax County could do? In other words, what do we not do that we should, or what needs improvement?
- Do you see a place in our existing process where more communication is needed? When is it best to brief the community on a project or ordinance/plan amendment?

Meeting 5, April 17th

Review and Approval of Draft Report

Meeting 6, April 24th

Review and Approval of Draft Report