Kentlands Express
A Publication
of the
Kentlands Citizens
Assembly

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Visual Change Application

Visual Change Application forms can be found on the Kentlands website or at the Clubhouse. Most exterior changes require this application be approved prior to outside changes in structure or décor.

Program Requests

Would you like to see more programs developed around your interests? Tell us your ideas! Contact Anita Parks by email or call 301-948-4290.

Submissions

The deadline for the next Kentlands Express is November 3 by 5:00 PM. Submissions are limited to one-half page and can be sent by email to aparks@cmc-management.com.

From the Board of Trustees

Notes from the Board

Written by: Rachael Henderson Hammoudeh, Secretary

Our guest speaker at this week's monthly Board Meeting was Diane Schwartz-Jones, Assistant Administrative Officer to the County Executive (CE) Ike Leggett. Ms. Jones provided us with an update of the CE's plan that includes the purchase of the GE Tech Park and Finmarc properties. The plan has had several names; it is now called "The Smart Growth Initiative".

The specific uses now planned for these properties are markedly different from the original plan presented by Ms. Jones and the CE staff at our February Board Meeting. Thanks in part to the efforts of our community and the Concerned Taxpayers of Montgomery County (CTMC) civic organization (populated by Kentlands residents, Board members, and President), the CE has modified the plan such that, if approved by the County Council, various County administrative offices would be housed in the GE building and the liquor control warehouse would be relocated in the current "Peapod" warehouse. Anything related to the PTSA, the MCSC food facility, and helipad are to be housed elsewhere; although the County is reserving the right to build up to the additional 700,00 sq ft allowed in the annexation agreement, there are no current proposed uses that would require additional space. The County also intends to expand the buffer zone between the liquor warehouse and the residential buildings and the school.

The CE is partnering with the City of Gaithersburg to establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the goal of ensuring that the land in front of the GE building (next to highway 28) becomes a public park. These negotiations also include the proposed Aquatic Center, which was planned for the parcel of land adjacent to the GE building. The County would also maintain seven acres of a tree preserve on this property; it is our understanding that they are negotiating to assist the City with the future operating expenses of the Aquatic Center, again, if construction is approved. It should be noted that part of our feedback last night was our desire to maintain the openness of the entire property and the ability of our children and residents to be able to walk to the Aquatic Center.

In addition, Ms. Jones provided an update on the entire property use plan, which involves several parcels of land throughout the county and numerous county functions.

The CTMC holds a regular meeting next Monday night, October 27, and will discuss our position on the CE's current plan. There are certainly advantages to having the County as our neighbor, not the least of which is the dedication of a public park and the maintenance of the entire property. At the same time, we remain concerned about the County's ability to finance this project, which will require the issuance of a bond to bridge the time between the acquisition of this land and the County's ability to divest itself of its currently owned property. As always, we will keep you apprised on this important issue for our neighborhood and as county taxpayers.