**Montgomery County Nighttime Economy Task Force**

**Public Use/Amenities Committee Work Plan**

**Main Question**

What steps can Montgomery County take to utilize existing public spaces to encourage safe and engaging nighttime activities? What steps can Montgomery County take to encourage the construction and implementation of safe and engaging nighttime activities in new development?

**Key Topics**

1. How do the different areas drive and sustain different activities?  Is it about suburban vs. urban design: nighttime economy in Germantown will be very different from Bethesda. Do the demographics of an area demand different opportunities?
2. Can the implementation of multi- sidewalks use (used for pedestrian travel and dining at different times) expand options for nighttime activities? Does patio seating create a better atmosphere at night?  Does it create noise problems?   What other multi-uses exist?
3. Is there a symbiotic relationship between outdoor dining and public spaces (see Rockville Town Square)?
4. How can street performances and/or street vendors enliven public spaces and attract users? Should they be regulated and/or spaces identified for performers?
5. How can public markets or other daytime public spaces be converted to nighttime activities?
6. How does this integrate with safety issues – pedestrian safety, ADA compliance, lighting, panhandling?

**Work Plan**

The Public Use/Amenities Committee will hold meetings to hear from experts in the following issues:

1. Experienced mixed-use developer and management team (Edens on Mosaic project)
2. County representative (focus on costs and county scope of services)
3. Chamber representative(s) to discuss local business needs
4. Civic representative(s) to discuss community goals
5. College and high school students to talk about what they want to see, where they go and why.
6. Local planners from Montgomery County and other local jurisdictions, as well as planners from private planning and architectural firms to talk about best practices in the field.

Each meeting will also include time for a question & answer period, general discussion, and community input.

The Committee will also review relevant studies from other jurisdictions. For example, an NYC study showed that by adding bikes lanes to roads and sidewalks sales at the street, retail business increased by over 40%.  This could be extrapolated to nighttime activities and bars/restaurants, based on expert interpretation at the meetings.

**Members**

* Andy Chod, Minkoff
* Erica Leatham, Ballard Spahr
* Dan Hoffman, Staff Liaison