

Town of Brookeville
Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 3, 2020
7:30 pm

Planning Commission Members:

Present: Harper Pryor, Chris Scanlon, Margaret Kay, Miche Booz

Absent: none

Quorum: Yes

Other Attendees: Commissioners Gaskill, Allison Moffett

Proceedings: Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Chair, Harper Pryor.

Minutes: February minutes were reviewed

BPC Staffing:

- Harper Pryor resigned, effective immediately with the following statement:

In accordance with the direct request of the President of the Brookeville Commissioners, I will relinquish my position on the Brookeville Planning Commission effective immediately. During my tenure, I have supported a series of 3 Town Commissioners. The conditions for volunteer service have changed significantly in this time – and the President of the Commissioners is initiating changes for the BPC.

I have worked steadfastly supporting the BPC and the Town of Brookeville:

- providing substantial efforts planning for and supporting our monthly meetings;
- satisfying all the State of MD training requirements;
- preparing and delivering testimony for numerous HPC hearings regarding Parcel 770;
- coordinating discussions with the BPC members and the applicant's architect culminating in a successful residential design for Parcel 770;
- supporting numerous Brookeville outreach activities, including:
 - the ADU hearing sponsored by the MoCo Council at Large, Hans Reimer, where I obtained Commissioner approval and Chris Scanlon and I were in attendance for Miche Booz' testimony;
 - attended numerous history talks where Brookeville was featured;
 - helped with the cleanup of the Schoolhouse area as in-kind Town labor required with the Town grant;
 - supported historical events in Brookeville – several where costume was required
- facilitating successful interactions with the MoCo Park&Planning transportation planners - both in Town and at their office in Silver Spring - to advance our thoughts regarding walkability, traffic calming, parking, and overall concepts to re-unite Brookeville after the bypass; and
- providing inputs to advance the Brookeville Comprehensive Plan.

As volunteers, we all work at the pleasure of the Commissioners. I offer the following parting thoughts as the Commissions implement their changes and offer inspiration for those looking to join Town government.

We must embrace our roles and responsibilities as stewards of the historic village of Brookeville. Our town is over 200 years old. The entire Town is on the National Register of Historic Places. We owe a debt to those who lived here before us and we have a responsibility to those who follow us. We must strive to protect the Town of Brookeville and preserve its history while planning for its future.

The BPC must be actively engaged. We continue in a very active period in our Town that requires great attention. This is not a passive, once-a-month job. We cannot shirk our responsibilities and compromise our Town government.

The Town Commissioners must adhere to the Town charter and actively engage in supporting activities that protect the historical integrity of Brookeville. They must be strong advocates for our historical past both within the Town and in the larger community. They must not support activities that create conflicts of interest that could jeopardize our Town sovereignty. Strong, effective Town government is essential to protect Brookeville's past and ensure its future.

If we fail to see our roles as stewards of Brookeville, and simply as local volunteers, we could lose Town sovereignty and become just part of Montgomery County. There would be no BPC to work with the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to guide future development. There would be no entity to protect our historic Town from competing priorities of the County. We could lose grant funding opportunities and positive attentions from State and Federal government agencies. Loss of funding would have a deleterious impact on Town maintenance and the aesthetic qualities of Brookeville.

To protect our historic Town, each and every one of us must embrace our roles as stewards of Brookeville. We must maintain Town sovereignty - and heed our obligation to those who lived here before us and live up to the responsibility for those who follow us.

Thank you,
Harper Pryor

- Buck Bartley has accepted an appointment to the BPC starting in April
- Allison Moffett is considering an appointment to the BPC.

Permit Approvals: none

Brookeville Parcel 770 - Status: no updates.

Comprehensive Plan:

- Susan Llareus, MD Dept. of Planning, will be invited to attend a BPC in April or May, depending on her schedule, to share how the State can assist the Town with updating the Comprehensive Plan.

- The BPC and Commissioners will hold a working group to review the Comp. Plan.
- A written Scope of Work will be developed to assist in hiring a consultant.
- The Commissioner will determine a budget for the Consultant
- Working Group will be meeting on March 16 to review the current Comp. Plan, write a Scope of Work, and formulate a budget.

Other Business:

- The request from 209 Market to work on a Saturday was approved. The work on the porch railing is expected to be completed in one day.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.
Cate McDonald, Town Clerk