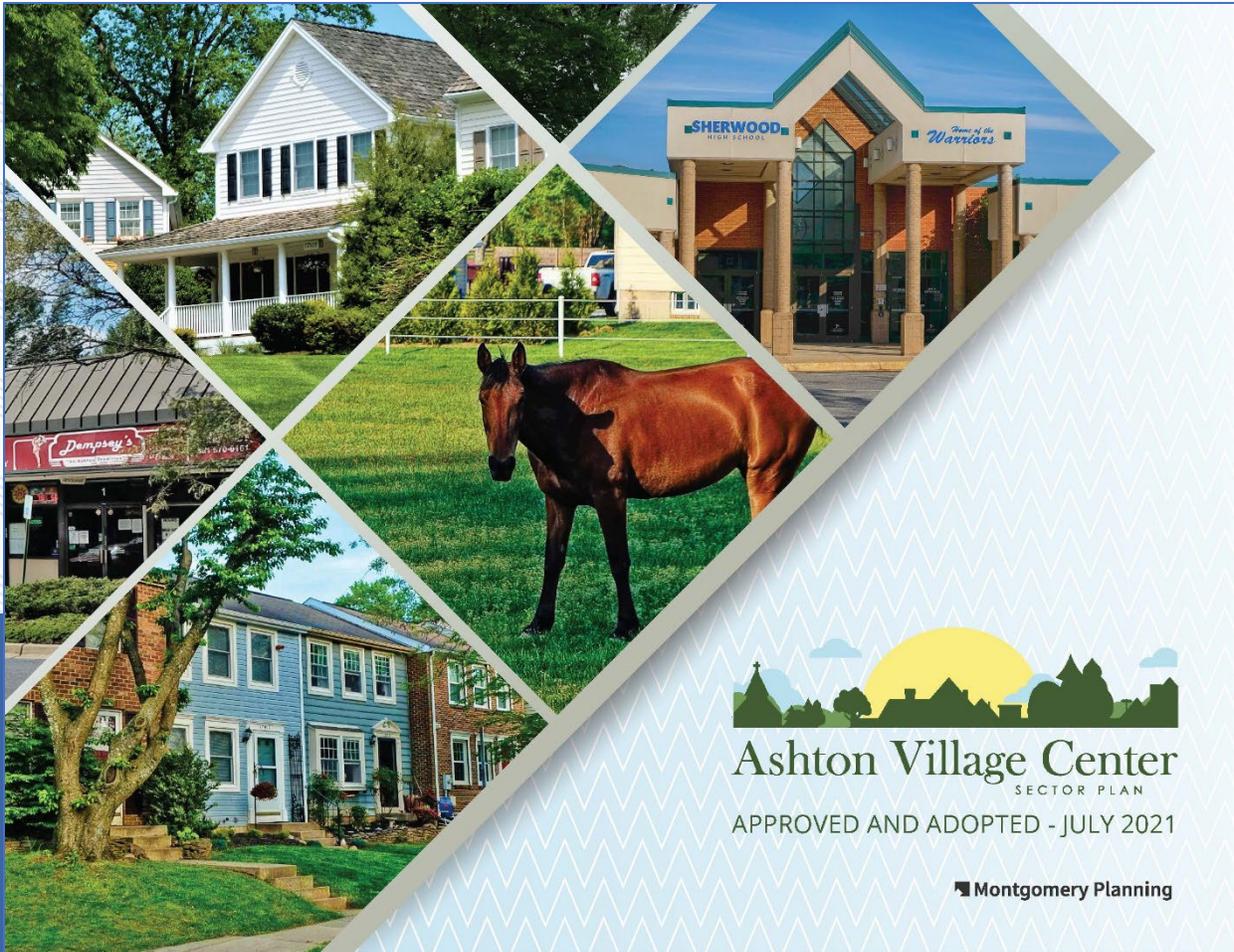


ASHTON VILLAGE CENTER IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NEW MEMBER APPOINTMENT



Description

Appointment of one new committee member for the Ashton Village Center Implementation Advisory Committee.

Completed: 11-22-2024

MCPB
Item No. 8
12-5-2024

2425 Reddie Drive
Floor 14
Wheaton, MD 20902

Planning Staff



Jamey Pratt, Planner III, Upcounty Planning, Jamey.Pratt@montgomeryplanning.org, 301-495-4588



Donnell Zeigler, Master Planner Supervisor, Upcounty Planning,
Donnell.Zeigler@montgomeryplanning.org, 301-495-4511



Patrick Butler, Chief, Upcounty Planning, Patrick.Butler@montgomeryplanning.org, 301-495-4561

SECTION 1 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND DETAILS

Staff Recommendation

Approve Ali Azimi Bolourian as a member of the Ashton Village Center Implementation Advisory Committee (AVCIAC).

Background

The Montgomery County Council approved the 2021 *Ashton Village Center Sector Plan* through Resolution #19-904 on June 15, 2021. The approved and adopted plan includes the following recommendation to establish an advisory committee:

This Plan supports the creation of an advisory group to address its implementation. The formation of any new advisory group should be staffed by the Planning Department in close coordination with the civic/neighborhood groups within the Ashton area.

This advisory group would work in coordination with the Regional Services Center that covers the area of a project by providing specific community and redevelopment expertise. It would also serve as an interface between community members, county agencies, and developers in implementing recommendations of the Ashton Village Center Sector Plan. This new group should be structured to include representatives from the various constituencies interested in successful implementation of the Plan. Notification and participation in the development review process should occur at the earliest stage of the process.

The initial ten AVCIAC members were appointed by the Planning Board at its meeting on May 5, 2022. Following the resignation of two Committee members earlier this year, Montgomery Planning invited people to submit letters of interest to serve on the committee. The deadline to apply was June 28, 2024. Planning staff received three applications for the Committee. All applicants were well qualified to be members, with varying situations and experiences that could bring new voices to any discussion of projects for the Ashton Village Center. Two of the three applicants were appointed as new members by the Planning Board in July of this year, while we held on to the letter of interest from the third applicant, Ali Azimi Bolourian, in case of another resignation from the Committee. In September,

member Chelsea Hughes announced she is resigning from the Committee and Mr. Bolourian has agreed to join the Committee.

Ashton Village Center Implementation Advisory Committee Membership

- Amy Medd (June 2024 – June 2027) (Chair)
- Julia Roberts (June 2022 – June 2025) (Vice Chair)
- Nadine Masone-Mort (June 2024 – June 2027) (Secretary)
- Ali Azimi Bolourian (December 2024 – December 2027) [*pending approval by Planning Board*]
- Leianne Clements (June 2022 – June 2025)
- Stephen Faehner (June 2024 – June 2027)
- Paul Mangus (June 2022 – June 2025)
- Jim Meehan (June 2024 – June 2027)
- Jessica Sidar (June 2022 – June 2025)
- Kathleen Wheeler (June 2024 – June 2027)

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends approval of Mr. Bolourian as a new member of the Ashton Village Center Implementation Advisory Committee.

Attachments

- Application letter from Mr. Bolourian

From: [Ali Azimi Bolourian](#)
To: [Pratt, Jamey](#)
Subject: Application for position on AVCIAC
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024 11:40:33 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

My name is Ali Azimi Bolourian, and I am writing to express my interest in serving on the AVCIAC. My wife, young son, and I—with another child due in early July—are proud residents of Ashton-Sandy Spring. We are deeply invested in this community, where our children will attend its schools. I believe my diverse background and strong ties to the community make me a valuable candidate to contribute to the committee's work.

Professionally, I am a computer engineer with a Master's degree in Computer Science. My work focuses on distributed computer systems, and I have a keen interest in technology, renewable energies, sustainable development, and history. Additionally, I own three properties in Ashton-Sandy Spring, one of which houses an urban farm that I operate with the help of my neighbor and farm manager, Tom Farquhar. This farm is not only a source of high-quality local food but also a testament to Ashton-Sandy Spring's rich agricultural heritage.

My connection to this community runs deep. I have a good relationship with the Sandy Spring Museum, currently assisting with the storage of a few of their historic items. My family enjoys a strong relationship with our neighbors and the wider community. Furthermore, my father, a retired urban planner and former professor of urban design at the University of Maryland, also resides in Ashton-Sandy Spring. His extensive experience and profound interest in the area's history and future development would be an invaluable resource of inspiration and guidance for me and the committee. Together, we even received the Montgomery County's Historic Preservation Award for our efforts in renovating a historic barn on my property.

Given my skillset, community involvement, and passion for the well-being of Ashton-Sandy Spring, I am confident in my ability to contribute meaningfully to the AVCIAC's mission. I am eager to collaborate with fellow committee members to ensure a bright future for our beloved community.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss my application further.

Sincerely,

Ali Azimi Bolourian

e-mail: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]