

#### Site Design

The architecture of the residential building is of a straightforward modern style, and the building fills the one-half acre site. The south facing units will have great solar exposure and a view out over the Triangle while the north facing units will have the advantage of shading in the summer and a greener view.

#### **Public Use Space and Amenities**

#### 1. Exterior Public Use Space

Staff and the applicant agreed to keep the small public use space in front of the building as simple and versatile as possible to serve as both a gathering area outside the art studio and a sunny sitting area. This outdoor space constitutes approximately 60% of the applicant's public use space requirement. When art is on display in the studio or art tours are in progress, the outdoor space can be a pleasant place to meet or stop on the way to the next exhibit.

### 2. Interior Public Use Space

#### The Art Studio

The art studio space represents approximately 40% of the applicant's on-site public use space requirement.

The Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the 1994 Sector Plan for the Bethesda CBD contains a list of prioritized amenities desired by the greater Woodmont community. An "arts incubator", a space where "emerging" artists who do not have their own studios can work and exhibit, was on the list of amenities. Arts incubators come in many sizes and shapes with a variety of management structures. Some have publicly sponsored and supported space and in others, the artists pay rent. The art space in this project is small and will accommodate approximately 3-4 artists, depending on their medium of expression.

Members of the Bethesda Arts and Entertainment District and the Arts and Humanities Council now prefer to call these public art spaces "work and exhibit" or "studio" space, because in most situations, an "arts incubator" is a much larger space. As with the previously approved art space in the 8400 Wisconsin project, members of the Arts and Entertainment District Board will select the artists for a specific time frame. The studio space will be manned by the artists and the Bethesda Urban Partnership and will be open to the public at regular scheduled hours and during Bethesda art festivals.

#### FACILITY PLAN FOR BATTERY LANE URBAN PARK

The Applicant will provide a Facility Plan for Battery Lane Urban Park as part of the amenity package for the optional method density. Renovations to Battery Lane Urban Park are on the list of priority amenities in the recently approved Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the 1994 Sector Plan for the Bethesda Central Business District (CBD). The Applicant will work closely with Park and Planning staff to develop the Plan concept, present it to the community, make revisions and present the Plan to the Planning Board for review prior to or at the time of site plan review. Parks staff has participated in meetings with the Applicant. While a concept for renovations to the park has been submitted, Parks staff has not yet reviewed it. The Facility Plan process will begin with alternative design concepts for the park.

A Facility Plan is a specific document with construction drawings at a 30% level of completion. The Applicant acknowledges the responsibility to accomplish the Facility Plan in a letter dated March 3, 2006, (Attachment #3).

#### Pedestrian and Vehicular Access

The site is conveniently located for residents to walk to the Medical Center Metro Station, approximately 2,800 feet away, or to a bus at Woodmont and Rugby Avenues. The Bethesda trolley stops across Rugby Avenue from the site. The many shops, restaurants and services in the Woodmont Triangle are all within walking distance.

Rugby Avenue has a continuous sidewalk on the north side of Rugby Avenue from Battery Lane Urban Park past the site to Woodmont Avenue on the east. The applicant will improve the frontage of the site with the Bethesda streetscape and will underground the utilities in front of the site.

The 3-floor parking garage in the building will adequately serve the needs of the residents. It will include bicycle and motorcycle parking.

#### PLANNING AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:

#### Master Plan

The Project Plan is in conformance with the 1994 Sector Plan for the Bethesda Central Business District, which encouraged housing in the north end of the Woodmont Triangle District, and the 2006 Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the 1994 Sector Plan. On March 15, 2006, the full Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission adopted Resolution No. 06-04 approving the final version of the Woodmont Triangle Amendment. (Attachment #6).

The Woodmont Triangle Amendment does not specifically discuss the project site and retained its CBD-1 zoning. The Amendment encourages the development of housing and providing MPDU's on site. The District Council incorporated a table into the Woodmont Triangle Amendment that shows the maximum height a development could achieve with 15% MPDU's for each zone. In the CBD-1 zone, the maximum height is listed as 110 feet (Attachment #7, page 16). The Applicant assumed that the findings the Planning Board must make under article 59-C-6.2351 of the Zoning Ordinance for exceeding the maximum height allowed no longer pertained. This is discussed under the conformance with the zone section of this staff report.

The application meets one of the amenity goals of the Woodmont Triangle Amendment by providing a Facility Plan for Battery Lane Urban Park and also provides a small amount of streetscape.

### **Prior Approvals**

The proposed development is zoned CBD-1. The property is comprised of parts of Lots 443, 444, 447, 448 and 627, Northwest Park.

## **Preliminary Plan**

A Preliminary Plan of subdivision (1-20060290) is being reviewed concurrently with the Project Plan.

## BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES

Per Sec. 59-D-2.43, in making its decision on an application for an Optional Method project plan, the Planning Board must consider:

- a. The nature of the proposed site and development, including its size and shape, and the proposed size, shape, height, arrangement and design of structures, and its consistency with an urban renewal plan approved under chapter 56.
- b. Whether the open spaces, including developed open space, would serve as convenient areas for recreation, relaxation and social

activities for the residents and patrons of the development and are planned, designed and situated to function as necessary physical and aesthetic open areas among and between individual structures and groups of structures, and whether the setbacks, yards and related walkways are located and of sufficient dimensions to provide for adequate light, air, pedestrian circulation and necessary vehicular access.

c. Whether the vehicular circulation system, including access and offstreet and loading, is designed to provide an efficient, safe and

convenient transportation system.

d. Whether the pedestrian circulation system is located, designed and of sufficient size to conveniently handle pedestrian traffic efficiently and without congestion; the extent to which the pedestrian circulation system is separated from vehicular roadways so as to be safe, pleasing and efficient for movement of pedestrians; and whether the pedestrian circulation system provides efficient, convenient and adequate linkages among residential areas, open spaces, recreational areas, commercial and employment areas and public facilities.

e. The adequacy of landscaping, screening, parking and loading areas, service areas, lighting and signs, in relation to the type of use and

neighborhood.

f. The adequacy of provisions for construction of moderately priced dwelling units in accordance with Chapter 25A if that Chapter applies.

g. The staging program and schedule of development.

h. The adequacy of forest conservation measures proposed to meet any requirements under Chapter 22A.

The adequacy of water resource protection measures proposed to meet any requirements under Chapter 19.

### FINDINGS for Project Plan Review:

Section 59-D-2.42 of the Zoning Ordinance sets forth the findings, which must be made by the Planning Board and form the basis for the Board's consideration of approval. In accordance herewith, the staff recommends that the Planning Board make the following findings (page 59D-25 of the Code):

(a) As conditioned, the proposal complies with all of the intents and requirements of the zone.

### **DISCUSSION OF INTENT OF THE ZONE**

The Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance states the purposes, which the CBD zones are designed to accomplish. The following statements analyze how the proposed Project Plan conforms to these purposes:

(1) "to encourage development in accordance with an adopted and approved master or sector plan, or an urban renewal plan approved under chapter 56 by permitting an increase in density, height, and intensity where the increase conforms to the master of sector plan or urban renewal plan and the site plan or combined urban renewal project plan is approved on review by the Planning Board."

The Project Plan proposes to use the Optional Method of Development. It is in conformance with the Approved and Adopted 1994 Sector Plan for the Bethesda Central Business District and the 2006 Wisconsin Triangle Amendment to the Sector Plan approved by the County Council and adopted by the full Park and Planning Commission on March 15, 2006.

The proposed development consists of one 9-story residential condominium building containing approximately 71 dwelling units. High-density residential uses are permitted in the CBD-1 Zone. The proposed building is 90 feet in height, measured from Rugby Avenue.

Under 59-C-6.235, 60 feet is the normally permitted maximum height for development under the optional method of development, but 90 feet may be approved by the Planning Board at site plan on a finding that the development does not adversely affect surrounding properties. If the project were to exceed 90 feet, five additional findings would have to be made.

This project plan will accomplish Sector Plan and Woodmont Triangle Amendment objectives by providing more housing, MPDUs on site, a public arts studio space, and a Facility Plan for the Battery Lane Urban Park. The project upgrades the physical environment and provides the Bethesda streetscape.

(2) "to permit a flexible response of development to the market as well as to provide incentives for the development of a variety of land uses and activities in central business districts to meet the needs and requirements of workers, shoppers and residents."

The project plan responds to the need for a variety of housing near metro in the Bethesda CBD, provides a public arts space, a small public plaza, and a Facility Plan for the renovation of Battery Lane Urban Park. This project will also encourage pedestrian activities by providing an improved, widened sidewalk, a small public open space and improvements to a popular linear park.

(3) "to encourage designs which produce a desirable relationship between the individual buildings in the central business district, between the buildings and the circulation system and between the central business district and adjacent areas."

The proposed project begins a revitalization of Rugby Avenue East of Norfolk Avenue and contributes to the supply of residential choices in the Bethesda CBD. The 9-story residential complex provides a transition from the older mid and high-rise rental apartments and condominiums to the north along Battery Lane and the single-family homes to the west. Older high-rise apartment buildings up to 143 feet in height are located two blocks south on Cordell Avenue.

The access points to the project will not conflict with the curb cuts on the opposite side of the adjacent streets.

(4) "to promote the effective use of transit facilities in the central business district and pedestrian access thereto."

The site is located approximately 2,800 feet from the Medical Center Metro Station and approximately 2,000 feet from the Bethesda Metro Station. Bus stops for six bus routes are located at Woodmont and Rugby Avenues, and the Bethesda Circulator stops across the street. Future residents will be able to walk to the numerous places of employment and restaurant, retail, service, and arts uses within the Woodmont Triangle and along Wisconsin Avenue.

(5) "to improve pedestrian and vehicular circulation."

The project provides an improved pedestrian sidewalk, replacing a 5-foot wide concrete sidewalk and a long expanse of driveway and head-in parking with a10-foot wide sidewalk with the Bethesda brick pavers. The driveway and loadings dock access across the sidewalk are paved with the brick pavers and level with the sidewalk as well. Street trees and utilities placed underground will make walking along this site to the park or to Norfolk Avenue a pleasant experience.

The applicant will propose improvements to the entrance to Battery Lane Urban Park and to the hiker/biker trail within the park in the Facility Plan. This important

trail links the Woodmont Triangle with residents on Battery Lane and with the National Institutes of Health. This trail is part of a continuous trail system connecting the North Bethesda Trolley Trail, Norfolk Avenue and the Capital Crescent Trail.

(6)) "to assist in the development of adequate residential areas for people with a range of different incomes."

One of the main goals of the Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the 1994 Bethesda Sector Plan is to provide housing near metro for a variety of income levels. This project provides 60 market rate units and 11 MPDUs on site. Consistent with Chapter 25A, the applicant is committed to providing all 11 MPDUs within the building.

(7) "to encourage land assembly and the most desirable use of land in accordance with a sector plan."

The project replaces a gravel parking lot and two older retail and commercial buildings with a modern residential building and public open space. This is a more desirable use of the land, adding residents who will use the businesses and services of the area, helping revitalize the Triangle, and providing pedestrian activity on the street in a part of the CBD that has been underutilized. The project plan responds to the need for more housing in the CBD, addresses smart growth policies and contributes to the variety and size of the open space network in the Woodmont Triangle.

## Section 59-C-6.213 states that it is further the intent in the CBD-1 Zone:

- (1) "to foster and promote the orderly development of the fringes of the Central Business Districts of the county so that these areas will provide land uses at a density and intensity which will encourage small business enterprises and diverse living accommodations, while complementing the uses in the interior portions of these districts; and
- (2) "to provide a density and intensity of development which will be compatible with adjacent land uses outside the Central Business Districts."

The 4851 Rugby Avenue project proposes additional residential uses for the edge of the CBD at an appropriate density. The site provides a transition from rental and condominium units to the north and east and the lower density of the single-family homes to the west to the greater density of the central part of the CBD.

In addition, through providing a Functional Plan for Battery Lane Urban Park, Improvements to a vital link between the residential, commercial and scientific parts of the community will be planned and set in motion.

### **REQUIREMENTS OF THE CBD-1 ZONE**

Section 59-C-6.23 sets forth the development standards for the CBD-1 zone. The following table summarizes the required and proposed project features:

#### PROJECT PLAN DATA TABLE

Development Standard	Permitted/Required	Proposed	
Gross Tract Area (s.f.): Net Lot Area (s.f.):	18,000*	20,258 s.f.+ 15,835 s.f.	
Gross Floor Area (s.f.): Reside	ential c arts space	104,644 s.f. 1,250 s.f.	
+4,423 s.f. previously dedicated;	•	1,200 0	
Density			
Floor Area Ratio	N/A	N/A	
Dwelling Units (per acre) 71 dwelling units represents	125 d.u. 15% MPDUs	71 d.u.	
60 market rate and 11 MPDU 22% bonus density based on	units		
Public Use Space (% s.f.):			
On-site: 20% min.net Public Amenity Space	lot 3,167 s.f.	3,195 s.f.(20.17%	6)
(in public r.o.w.)		1,790 s.f.	
Max. Building Height (ft.)	90 feet	90 feet	
(Discussed below on page 21)			
**Parking Required:	81	95	
Residential Uses(Mkt. Ra		40	
1 BR @ 1.25 sp/unit(32 x 2 BR @ 1.50 sp/unit (28 x		40 42	
2 511 @ 1.00 spraint (20 x	1.0) TE		
Residential Uses (MPDU	•		
1 BR @ 0.625 sp/unit (6	•	4	
2 BR @ 0.75 sp/unit (5 x	0.75) 4	4	

<sup>\*</sup>ZTA#05-08 reduced the minimum lot size for the OMD

(Attachment #7)

The Woodmont Triangle Amendment has no minimum lot size for the OMD. (Attachment #6)

<sup>\*\*</sup>Note: Site is within the limits of the Bethesda Parking Lot District and not required to provide any parking spaces pursuant to Section 59-E-5.2 of the Montgomery County

Zoning Ordinance. Parking credits are applicable pursuant to Section 59-E-3.3 for residential uses in the CBD and proximity to the Metro.

## Height

The Applicant initially applied for 101 feet. If 101 feet were proposed, the application would not meet the zoning requirements for exceeding 90 feet under 59-C-6.235. The Applicant has agreed to seek approval for a 90-foot building. A 90-foot building would not adversely affect surrounding properties at 90 feet.

### **Amenities and Facilities Summary**

#### On-Site Improvements

An on-site public open space of approximately 1,945 square feet is provided. The green space connects to the public art space and provides a south-facing open space for residents and the public alike. The 1,250 square foot arts work and exhibit studio will open onto the green space.

### **Off-Site Improvements**

Streetscape

The public sidewalk will be improved with the Bethesda streetscape, including street trees, Washington Globe street trees, undergrounding of utilities, benches, and trash receptacles.

Facilities Plan for Battery Lane Urban Park

The applicant will provide a Facilities Plan for improvements of Battery Lane Urban Park. This Plan, representing 30% drawings, and based on a concept submitted by the applicant, proposes screening the park from adjacent parking facilities, an improved hiker/biker trail, an arts and science theme in the park furnishings, new signs, new lighting, old overhead wire and utilities placed underground, an improved entry and amended plantings. The Facilities Plan will be presented to community groups, revised, and brought before the Planning Commission for review. The Plan will include revised grading to correct drainage problems. A letter dated March 3, 2006 from David D. Freishtat, Attachment #3, describes the applicant's commitment to developing the Facility Plan.

The Rugby Avenue Right-of-Way (60 foot right-of-way.)

Rugby Avenue is a two lane commercial street with parking on both sides. The full Bethesda CBD streetscape will be provided along the extent of the property on the north side of Rugby Avenue. Utility lines will be placed underground. The sidewalk will be improved with the Bethesda paver and be a minimum of 10 feet in width, the Washington Globe will be installed at 60 feet on center, and Red Oak street trees will be planted at approximately 30 feet on center in improved tree pits. A Memorandum from Transportation Planning is Attachment #1.

(b) As conditioned, the proposal conforms to the approved and adopted Master or Sector Plan or an Urban Renewal Plan approved under Chapter 56.

## Zoning, Land Use and Sector Plan Conformance:

The approved and Adopted 1994 Bethesda CBD Sector Plan recommends the CBD-1 zoning for this site. The site is included in the Woodmont Triangle Amendment Study Area and no changes were made to the zoning for the site.

Conformance with the Purpose of the Woodmont Triangle Amendment: The Woodmont Triangle Amendment builds on the goals of the 1994 Plan and seeks to spur the development of a variety of housing in the Woodmont Triangle, promotes revitalization by having more people living, walking and working in the Triangle, promotes additional streetscape in the area and seeks to support the Arts and Entertainment District by implementing a series of art amenity features.

This project conforms to the purpose of the Amendment by providing MPDU's on site, providing a small art studio open to the public, and by contributing to the quality of the outdoor public spaces in the Woodmont Triangle through the Facility Plan for Battery Lane Urban Park and by providing additional streetscape.

c) As conditioned, because of its location, size, intensity, design, operational characteristics and staging, it would be compatible with and not detrimental to existing or potential development in the general neighborhood.

Compatibility: The proposed residential project is located between apartments and condominiums on the north, single-family residences on the west, and older businesses on the east and south. The proposed 9-story building is sufficiently setback from the apartments to the north to avoid heavy shadowing. The apartment building to the north is separated from the proposed building by 125 feet of surface parking lot. The proposed project will be an improvement over the existing gravel parking lot and office buildings.

The proposed development is compatible with existing and proposed development within the surrounding area with regard to height, design of the buildings and public spaces, intensity of the development and operational characteristics.

(d) As conditioned, the proposal would not overburden existing public services nor those programmed for availability concurrently with each stage of construction and, if located within a transportation management district designated under chapter 24A, article H, is subject to a traffic mitigation agreement that meets the requirements of that article.

The project will be built in one phase.

A memorandum from Transportation Planning is attachment #1 to this report. The project will enter into a traffic mitigation agreement with the Planning Board as specified. The residential project will not severely impact the adjacent intersections. 95 parking spaces are provided within the project for 71 dwelling units. The Applicant is providing 5 more parking spaces than required. In addition, a public parking structure is located one block away, and transit services are excellent at this site. The site is within the Bethesda Parking District.

Regarding potential impacts on public schools, high-rise projects typically generate a low rate of students. Studies prepared for the Woodmont Triangle Amendment found that no additional school facilities would be required, even with an increase of 1,500 hundred housing units over the next 10-15 years.

e) The proposal will be more efficient and desirable than could be accomplished by the use of the standard method of development.

The Optional Method of Development permits a more efficient and desirable product than the standard method of development.

Under the Standard Method of Development, the project could achieve approximately half the proposed dwelling units and would provide only 5 MPDUs. 11 MPDUs are provided by this project as well as streetscape, a green space and amenity improvements. Under the standard method of development, 10% public use space, a minimal amount of streetscape and no amenity space would be achieved.

f) The proposal will include moderately priced dwelling units in accordance with Chapter 25A of the Code, if the requirements of that chapter apply.

The proposed development is providing 11 MPDU's on site, 15 percent of the total number of units, in accordance with the provision of Chapter 25A of the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance.

g) As conditioned, the proposal satisfies any applicable requirements for forest Conservation under chapter 22A.

The Environmental Planning Division reviewed the proposed project. The Plan qualifies for an exemption for a small Property, less than 1.5 acres in size. This property is not subject to a Tree Save Plan nor is it within a Special Protection Area. Please see attachment #2.

h) As conditioned, the proposal satisfies any applicable requirements for water quality resources protection under Chapter 19.

A stormwater management concept plan has been submitted for review to the Department of Permitting Services. The application proposes on-site management.

#### **APPENDIX**

- 1. Memorandum from Transportation Planning
- 2. Forest Conservation Recommendations, Environmental Planning
- 3. March 3, 2005 letter from David Freishtat
- 4. March 9, 2006 Letter from David Freishtat with list of community representatives contacted
- 5. Fire Marshal Comments
- 6. Resolution No. 06-04, M-NCPPC
- 7. Zoning Text Amendment No: 05-08, effective February 28, 2006

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## MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760 MAR 1 4 2006

March 13, 2006

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

Marilyn Clemens, Planner/Coordinator

Community Based Planning

Dolores Kinney, Senior Planner

Development Review Division

VIA:

Shahriar Etemadi, Supervikor

Transportation Planning

FROM:

Scott A. James, Planner/Coordinator 500

Transportation Planning

SUBJECT:

Rugby Condominium

Preliminary Plan # 1-06029 and Project Plan #9-06005

Bethesda Central Business District

This memorandum is Transportation Planning staff's Adequate Public Facilities (APF) review and approval of the subject preliminary and project plan application to construct 75 residential units in downtown Bethesda.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Transportation Planning staff recommends approval of the above referenced preliminary and project plans with the following conditions as part of the APF test for transportation requirements related to Local Area Transportation Review (LATR):

- 1. Limit the development to 75 high-rise residential units.
- 2. Suggest that the applicant enter into a traffic mitigation agreement to participate in the Bethesda Transportation Management Organization.

- 3. Provide one bike rack in front of entrance and three bicycle lockers in the proposed structured parking garage.
- 4. Participate with others including Park and Planning and Department of Public Works and Transportation to reconfigure the intersection of Rugby Avenue at Auburn Avenue for improved pedestrian access and safety.

#### **DISCUSSION**

## Site Location, Access, Circulation, and Parking

The subject property is located at the corner of Rugby Avenue and Auburn Avenue in Bethesda, between Woodmont Avenue and Glenbrook Road in the Bethesda Central Business District (CBD). The proposed development occupies the northern side of Rugby Avenue, opposite the terminus of Auburn Avenue. The development proposes to construct up to 75 residential units within a ten-story building with direct vehicular access from Rugby Avenue. The proposed access driveway is aligned with Auburn Avenue within the Auburn Avenue/Rugby Avenue intersection. Future roadway improvements to this intersection may involve a geometric modification that will improve pedestrian access across the intersection.

## Local Area Transportation Review

The proposed development of 75 residential units is anticipated to generate 23 AM peak hour trips and 23 PM peak hour trips during a regular weekday. As such, the development does not require a traffic impact study per the LATR Guidelines. However, a detailed traffic impact statement was provided to discuss the likely impact to adjacent transportation infrastructure.

The traffic impact statement concluded that no significant impact or increase in congestion is anticipated. All nearby intersections currently operate within the established Bethesda CBD Critical Lane Volume (CLV) threshold of 1,800 vehicles.

## Master Plan Roadways and Bikeways

Rugby Avenue is a residential street of Bethesda's Central Business District with an ultimate right-of-way of 60 feet east of Auburn Avenue. Auburn Avenue is a Business Street of sixty feet ultimate right-of-way. As the proposed development occupies the northern side of Rugby Avenue east of its intersection with Auburn Avenue, the applicant will dedicate land to equal thirty feet, as measured from the centerline in accordance with the Bethesda CBD Sector Plan.

According to the Countywide Bikeways Functional Master Plan, an alternative shared-use path  $(SR-7\ \&\ SR-10)$  is proposed to access the National Institute of Health property north of the site via the Glenbrook Road alignment. No proposed or existing bicycle facilities are located within the proposed development

## Pedestrian Access

The northern side of Rugby Avenue does not have a marked pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Auburn Avenue. There are long term plans for more efficient traffic (vehicular and pedestrian) circulation through this intersection by means of realigning the approach lanes on Auburn Avenue and shortening the north-south pedestrian crossing distance. At which time, the applicant will participate on a pro rata basis (using daily trips generated) with other parties to implement this improvement. The project proposes to tie into the existing network of pedestrian facilities within the Bethesda CBD.

SAJ:gw

mmo to Clemens re Rugby Lane Condos

## MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION FOREST CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

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	Plan review staff	Environmental	Planning Section
10:	PIGIT TEVICAL STORY		

SUBJECT: Project Name Woodmont Triangle/Rugby Ave. Date Recd 7/15/05 NRI/FSD # 4-05002E

The above-referenced plan has been reviewed by the Environmental Planning Division to determine the requirements of Chapter 22A of the Montgomery County Code (Forest Conservation Law). A determination has been made that the plan qualifies for the following exemption:

#### EXEMPTION:

**Small Property** 

Activity occurring on a tract less than or equal to 1.5 acre in size where there is no existing forest and afforestation requirements would be less than 10,000 square feet, and no specimen or champion trees will be disturbed;

Activity occurring on a tract less than or equal to 1 acre in size where activity will not result in the clearing of more than 30,000 square feet of existing forest, or any specimen or champion trees, and reforestation requirements would be less than 10,000 square feet.

Note: Tree Save Plan, including preservation and/or replanting of individual trees is required in lieu of a FCP where trees are impacted. Forest within any priority area on-site must be preserved.

NOTE: Per section 22A-6(b) of the Forest Conservation Law, Tree Save Plans may be substituted for Forest Conservation Plans on properties where the proposed development is exempt from Forest Conservation except that it involves clearing of specimen or champion trees.

This property is not subject to a Tree Save Plan.

This property is not within a Special Protection Area.

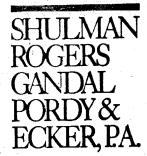
Date: <u>7/26/05</u> Signature: Candy Bunnag **Environmental Planning** 

Elliot Schnitzer, Hampden Lane Associates (fax: 301-657-8339) cc:

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Retired

Writer's Direct Dial Number: 301-230-5206 dfreishtat@srgpe.com

March 3, 2006

Mrs. Marilyn Clemens
Maryland-National Capital Park
& Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re:

Project Plan No. 92000050; 4851 Rugby Avenue, LLC

Our File No. 109495.00003

Dear Mrs. Clemens:

The purpose of this letter is to memorialize our discussions regarding the above-referenced matter and to commit the applicant to an agreed-upon course of action.

The applicant, 4851 Rugby Avenue, LLC has filed a request with the Montgomery County Planning Board for approval of a Project Plan application to permit the construction of 71 residential units in the Woodmont Triangle portion of the Bethesda CBD.

Pursuant to our discussions, the applicant has agreed to prepare a "Facility Plan" for the Battery Lane Park, as shown on the Bethesda CBD Sector Plan and the Woodmont Triangle Amendment to that Plan. A design concept for the park shall be provided by Friday, March 10, 2006, for inclusion with our Development Plan materials.

Specifically, we have agreed that the Facility Plan will be reflective of a 30% design drawing (as noted in the Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Bethesda CBD Sector Plan).

The applicant, 4851 Rugby Avenue, LLC, further agrees that it will authorize its engineers to work with you and the other staff members in refining the Plan through meetings with community leaders. It is understood that there will be one such meeting with community groups and leaders. After these community meetings, our engineer will present the Concept or Facility Plan to the Montgomery County Planning Board for its approval of the Plan.



Ms. Marilyn Clemens March 3, 2006 Page 2

Our engineers will send out the notices of the community groups meeting to the individuals and groups identified by you and other Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission staff members.

The Facility Plan will show a preliminary grading plan to resolve drainage and grading issues. The other issues to be addressed by the Facility plan are a follows:

- Improve the entrance to the park from Norfolk Avenue.
- Widen the existing bicycle trail to 10 feet and improve it as necessary to reinforce its importance.
- Create a new gathering area for picnics and small performances.
- Incorporate art or an arts and science theme in the site furnishings.

It is understood that this Facility Plan is recommended by the Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Bethesda CBD Sector Plan.

On behalf of the applicant and the consultants who have been working hard on this project, we appreciate your and other staff members working with us and we look forward to working with you as this project moves forward.

My best regards.

Very truly yours,

David D. Freishtat

DDF/grs

cc:

Mr. Elliot Schnitzer

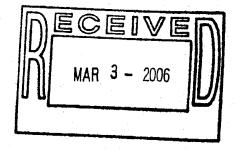
Mr. Arnold Polinger

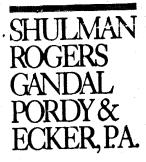
Mr. James Alexander

Mrs. Kathleen Kulenguski

Mr. Doug Alexander

Mr. Guy Martin





Lawrence A Shulman
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Maryland and D.C. eccept as noted:
+ Virginia also • D.C. only
• Maryland only † Retired

Writer's Direct Dial Number: 301-230-5206 dfreishtat@srgpe.com

March 9, 2006

Re:

Project Plan Approval; 4851 Rugby Avenue LLC

Our File No. 109495.00003

Dear \_\_\_\_:

This Firm represents 4851 Ruby Avenue LLC which has applied for approval of a Project Plan for a proposed residential building at 4851 Rugby Avenue. The plans have been filed with the Park and Planning Commission. I wanted to offer to you the opportunity to meet with me and a representative of the developer to review the plans and respond to any questions you might have.

Please call me if you have any questions or wish to meet and review the plans. We appreciate your comments and input in the review process.

My best regards.

Very truly yours,

David D. Freishtat

DDF/grs



On March 9, 2006, the attached letter was mailed to the following addressees:

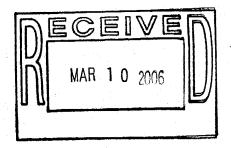
Mr. John M. Conroy 7901 Norfolk Avenue Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Ms. Deborah Sneed West Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board Bethesda-Chevy Chase Services Center 4805 Edgemoor Lane Bethesda, Maryland 20854

Mr. Stephen N. Sawicki Edgewood Glenwood Citizens Association 8213 Maple Ridge Road Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Mr. Paul Ravitz 8009 Glenbrook Road Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Mr. James Quigley Ms. Carmy Stillman Battery Lane Residents Association 4890 Battery Lane, Apt. 419 Bethesda, Maryland 20814





### FIRE MARSHAL COMMENTS

DATE:

2-6-06

TO:

PLANNING BOARD, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

VIA:

FROM:

CAPTAIN JOHN FEISSNER 240.777.2436

RE:

APPROVAL OF ~ RUGBY CONDOMINIUM 1-20060290 & #920060050(FORMERLY 9-06005)

#### 1. PLAN APPROVED.

- a. Review based only upon information contained on the plan submitted <u>2-6-06</u>. Review and approval does not cover unsatisfactory installation resulting from errors, omissions, or failure to clearly indicate conditions on this plan.
- b. Correction of unsatisfactory installation will be required upon inspection and service of notice of violation to a party responsible for the property.

Note: Fire hydrants are required to be within 100 feet of building sprinkler standpipe system.



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760 301-495-4500, www.mncppc.org

March 1, 2006

#### MEMORANDUM

TO:

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

VIA:

John A. Carter, Chief

Community-Based Planning Division

FROM:

Marilyn Clemens, Planner Coordinator (301.495.4572) The

Community-Based Planning Division

SUBJECT: Adoption of the Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the 1994 Sector Plan

for the Bethesda Central Business District (CBD)

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Resolution No. 06-04 for Adoption

#### DISCUSSION

The Full Commission Resolution No. 06-04 to adopt the Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the 1994 Sector Plan for the Bethesda CBD is attached for your review and approval. The District Council Resolution No. 15-1317 dated January 31, 2006 is also attached for your information.

The Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the 1994 Sector Plan for the Bethesda CBD was approved unanimously by the District Council on January 31, 2006. Amendment is an example of planning at the neighborhood scale. It includes significant opportunities to increase housing for a variety of income levels, improve retail, and provide amenities in the Bethesda CBD.

JAC:ha: j:\2006 staff reports\team 2\M-NCPPC woodmont resolution

Attachments

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760 301-495-4500, www.mncppc.org

M-NCPPC No. 06-04 MCPB No. 06-02

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, by virtue of Article 28 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, is authorized and empowered, from time to time, to make and adopt, amend, extend and add to the General Plan for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, pursuant to said law, held a duly advertised public hearing on May 20, 2004, on the Public Hearing (Preliminary) Draft of the Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Sector Plan for the Bethesda Central Business District (CBD), being also an amendment to the Approved and Adopted Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan, 1990 as amended; the Master Plan of Bikeways, 2005, as amended; the General Plan, 1990 as amended; the Master Plan of Physical Development of the Maryland-Plan (On Wedges and Corridors) for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, as amended; and the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Planning Board, after said public hearing and due deliberation and consideration, on December 22, 2004, approved the Planning Board (Final) Draft of the proposed Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Sector Plan for the Bethesda Central Business District, and recommended that it be approved by the District Council and forwarded it to the County Executive for recommendation and analysis; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Executive reviewed and made recommendations on the Planning Board (Final) Draft of the Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Sector Plan for the Bethesda Central Business District and forwarded those recommendations with a fiscal analysis to the District Council on February 23, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Council, sitting as the District Council for the portion of the Maryland-Washington Regional District lying within Montgomery County, held a public hearing on May 10, 2005 and July 12, 2005, wherein testimony was received concerning the Planning Board (Final) Draft of the Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Sector Plan for the Bethesda Central Business District; and

WHEREAS, the District Council, on January 31, 2006, approved the Planning Board (Final) Draft of the Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Sector Plan for the Bethesda Central Business District subject to the modifications and revisions set forth in Resolution No. 15-1317; and

Resolution No.: 15-1316

Introduced:

January 31, 2006

Adopted:

January 31, 2006

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PORTION OF THE MARYLAND WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Bv:	D	istrict	Council

SUBJECT: Approval of Planning Board Draft Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Bethesda CBD Sector Plan

- 1. On December 22, 2004, the Montgomery County Planning Board transmitted to the County Executive and the County Council the Planning Board Draft Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Bethesda CBD Sector Plan.
- 2. The Planning Board Draft Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Bethesda CBD Sector Plan amends the approved and adopted 1980 Master Plan of Bikeways; The General Plan (On Wedges and Corridors) for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties; The Countywide Park Trails Plan; and The Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County.
- 3. On February 23, 2005, the County Executive transmitted to the County Council his fiscal analysis of the Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Bethesda CBD Sector Plan.
- 4. On May 10, 2005 and July 12, 2005, the County Council held a public hearing regarding the Planning Board Draft Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Bethesda CBD Sector Plan. The Sector Plan was referred to the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee for review and recommendation.
- 5. On September 15, September 26, October 10, October 24, and October 31, 2005 the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee held worksessions to review the issues raised in connection with the Planning Board Draft Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Bethesda CBD Sector Plan.
- 6. On November 22, 2005, the County Council reviewed the Planning Board Draft Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Bethesda CBD Sector Plan and the recommendations of the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee.

#### Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland sitting as the District Council for that portion of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following resolution:

The Planning Board Draft Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Bethesda CBD Sector Plan, dated December 2004, is approved with revisions. Council revisions to the Planning Board Draft Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Bethesda CBD Sector Plan are identified below. Deletions to the text of the Plan are indicated by [brackets], additions by underscoring.

Page 1: Under Purpose of the Amendment, revise paragraph as follows:

In October 2003, the Montgomery County Council requested that the M-NCPPC examine the potential for a limited amendment to the [existing Sector Plan for the Bethesda Central Business District, dated July 1994] 1994 Approved and Adopted Sector Plan for the Bethesda Central Business District. The [primary] purpose of this amendment was to [increase opportunities for housing to serve a variety of income levels and to improve the retail environment in the Woodmont Triangle area] reconsider how redevelopment could both provide more opportunities for housing close to the Metro station and retain the qualities and ambience of the small-scale retail that distinguishes the study area from other parts of the Bethesda CBD.

Page 1: Under Summary of Community Outreach revise first two sentences of the first paragraph as follows:

An [unique] outreach program was developed to address the issues in the Woodmont Triangle Study Area. The M-NCPPC with the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County held five[,] public workshops and several focus group meetings.

Page 2: Revise first paragraph as follows:

Separate meetings with individuals, government agencies and civic associations were also held to augment the discussions in the workshops. [The use of e] Electronic media, phone messages and written announcements were used to notify individuals of the date and location of the workshops.

Page 2: Delete the section entitled "Relationship to the 1994 Sector Plan" and replace with the following:

# BACKGROUND - THE 1994 SECTOR PLAN

The 1994 Sector Plan had four objectives for the Woodmont Triangle District:

- Preserve the predominantly low-density and low-scale character of the district:
- Provide additional housing particularly in the north end of the district.

• Support a diverse specialty retail community serving retail and restaurant environment, including sidewalk cafes and dispersed parking.

Improve the pedestrian environment with up-graded streetscape including street trees and green open spaces.

The 1994 Sector Plan recommended the use of CBD zones to further the goals of the plan.

Development in the CBD zones may occur under two options: the standard method and the optional method. The standard method requires the development to comply with a specific set of standards and density compatible with the standards. The optional method does not have as many specific standards and allows higher densities if certain public facilities and amenities are provided. The CBD zones permit an increase in density, height and intensity where such increases conform to the sector plan.

The design concept for the 1994 Bethesda CBD Sector Plan encourages the greatest height at the Metro and a "step down" in height away from the CBD Core. To ensure that the desired heights would be achieved, the Sector Plan recommended lower floor area ratios (FAR) and capped building heights to lower than the maximum allowed in the zone to address scale, shading, and compatibility with the existing neighborhood character. The Sector Plan further directed future development with a series of Urban Design Guidelines and priority public improvements.

After the Sector Plan was approved and the District Council granted the Sectional Map
Amendment implementing the zoning recommendations of the Plan, development in the
Bethesda CBD proceeded in conformance with the Sector Plan. While portions of Bethesda
CBD redeveloped as recommended, the Woodmont Triangle District did not realize the vision of
the 1994 Plan. Although the Sector Plan envisioned an increase in housing in the Woodmont
Triangle District, the building height and density limits inhibited redevelopment. Retail and
housing did not expand in this area, and some businesses began to relocate to the newly
developed areas in south Bethesda, leading some to believe that the area was beginning to
decline.

Since 1994, market forces, lack of redevelopment and the need for more housing, especially housing for all income levels, indicated that reconsideration of objectives in the sector plan was warranted. The Woodmont Triangle area appeared to be an appropriate area to address the County's housing needs and provide incentives to encourage revitalization and redevelopment.

Page 2: Following new section entitled Background - The 1994 Sector Plan, add a new section as follows:

## CHANGES TO DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

As a result of zoning, height and floor area ratio changes proposed in this plan and changes in law and regulation that have occurred since the adoption of the 1994 Sector Plan, the estimated residential development increases and the estimated commercial development decreases as indicated below.

## Changes to Development Potential

	<u>2005</u>	<u>Difference</u>	
Commercial Residential	Amendment  Commercial Development  Development	2 Development	Residential Development
SF 3.400 DUs.	SF 2.661.710 SF 10.491 Jobs	SF   -296,190 SF   -859 jobs	+1612 DUs

Recommendations to monitor the actual development on an ongoing basis are contained in the Implementation chapter of this plan.

Page 2: Replace Woodmont Triangle Study Area Boundary with the following:

## STUDY AREA BOUNDARY

This Amendment analyzed an area larger than the Woodmont Triangle District described in the Sector Plan in order to evaluate more comprehensively the effect the recommended changes might have on the surrounding districts. The study area includes the entire Woodmont Triangle District, as defined in the 1994 Approved and Adopted Sector Plan, the west side of the Wisconsin Avenue North District, the east side of the Old Georgetown Road Corridor District, and the entire Battery Lane District.

The study area is bounded on the north by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), on the east by Wisconsin Avenue, on the southeast by Woodmont Avenue, and on the southwest by Old Georgetown Road.

Page 3: Delete first paragraph and rename chapter as follows

# [SUMMARY OF THE AMENDMENT] VISION AND GOALS

[This section of the amendment provides a summary of the Vision, Challenges, and Actions necessary to implement the objectives of this amendment.]

Page 3: Under Vision, revise as follows:

[The Woodmont Triangle will be] This Amendment envisions the Woodmont Triangle Study Area as a vibrant [and] urban, mixed-use neighborhood [emphasizing] that emphasizes residential, small-scale retail, [and] the arts and public amenities. One-of-a kind, small-scale specialty retail stores, art galleries, studio space and people strolling on pedestrian-friendly local streets characterize this neighborhood.

Page 3: Under Challenges rename and revise section as follows:

## [CHALLENGES] GOALS

The [challenges to be met in order to meet the vision] goals of this amendment include the following:

• [Encourage] Housing - Provide opportunities to increase the supply of housing to serve a variety of income levels.

• Small-Scale Retail - Provide opportunities to retain existing businesses and expand opportunities for new businesses.

• [Enhance the] Arts and Entertainment District – Enhance the existing public arts programs in the Bethesda CBD and provide opportunities for both the visual and performing arts.

• [Create Great] Safe and Attractive Streets - Focus on improving the safety and character of the existing streets. Establish Norfolk Avenue as the main street in the Woodmont Triangle Study Area.

• [Provide] Public Amenities – Increase the flexibility in providing the public <u>use</u> space through the Optional Method of Development by allowing off-site and on-site fulfillment of this requirement, and by identifying a list of priority public [spaces] <u>amenities</u>

Page 7: Delete section entitled Summary of Recommended Actions and replace with the following:

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

## This Amendment to the Sector Plan:

- Reduces the amount of future commercial development and increases the amount of residential development.
- Allows an increase in residential FAR (floor area ratio) to encourage housing.
- Encourages retention of small-scale retail.
- Removes the 1994 Sector Plan height limits to encourage redevelopment, but retains the step down principles from the core and along Norfolk Avenue to preserve solar access.
- Encourages the location of first floor retail.
- Recommends improvements to enhance Norfolk Avenue as the "main street" for the Woodmont Triangle District.

Resolution No.: 15-1316

• Recommends improving Battery Lane Urban Park for all users and to provide a better connection between the Woodmont Triangle Study Area, NIH and the North Bethesda Trolley Trail.

- Recommends limited zoning changes to encourage housing.
- Recommends a text amendment to the CBD Zones that lowers the minimum lot size necessary to apply for the Optional Method of Development and provides a transfer of density option.

Page 8: Replace first paragraph with the following:

[This section of the amendment describes the limited changes to the general provisions of the existing Sector Plan for the Bethesda Central Business District.]

This Amendment recommends zoning changes, higher floor area ratios (FAR) and greater building height than were recommended in the 1994 Sector Plan. The 1994 Sector Plan capped heights and FAR below that allowed in the respective CBD zones. The Plan specifically restricted some of the CBD-1 zoned properties to 50 feet in height and CBD-R2 zoned properties to a height of 90 to 110 feet in order to preserve the existing low-density and low-scale character. This Amendment encourages redevelopment to provide housing opportunities along with retention of small-scale retail by eliminating the caps set in the 1994 Plan. The Amendment recommends using the standards of the existing zones to determine building height. Mixed-use projects with moderately priced units (MPDUs) on-site can achieve the greater height and density allowed in the respective zones as specified in this Amendment, but at an FAR no greater that the maximum allowed in the Zoning Ordinance. The Amendment continues to recommend that buildings "step down" from the Metro station to the edges of the Central Business District except where noted in the specific Block recommendations. The Amendment proposes priority public use space and amenities, emphasizing improvements along Norfolk Avenue, to more fully realize the vision of the 1994 Sector Plan.

In addition to removing the caps of the 1994 Sector Plan, this Amendment recommends that two provisions be added to the CBD zones to encourage redevelopment and yet retain small-scale retail. The first reduces the minimum lot size requirement for the optional method; the second allows transfer of density between CBD zoned properties within the Woodmont Triangle Study Area. The transfer of density provides development flexibility whereby existing retail businesses wishing to remain could transfer unused density to parcels within the density transfer area as described in this Amendment. Both these provisions would be added to the CBD zones through a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment, which is more fully described in the Implementation Section.

Page 8: Under Housing revise paragraph as follows:

[This amendment proposes to encourage the retention of existing housing and the construction of new housing to serve a variety of income levels in the Woodmont Triangle Study Area. This amendment also supports the Land Use and Urban Design Objectives of the existing Sector

Plan.] In the ten years since the Sector Plan was approved, the cost of housing in the Bethesda CBD has increased significantly. Although many new dwelling units are becoming available, the diversity and supply of housing are not sufficient to serve a variety of income levels.

• Provide a range of housing opportunities, including new low-rise and high-rise housing, to serve a variety of income levels.

• Public surface parking lots in the Sector Plan area should be considered for optional method housing projects and projects with significant permanent affordable housing, as is being done in other areas such as Lot 31 and in Silver Spring.

Page 8: Delete section entitled Revitalization through Improvements to Public Streets and Spaces.

Page 9: Replace entire section under the heading "Building Height Limits" with the following:

The guidelines for building heights in the 1994 Sector Plan were designed to protect the residential neighborhoods at the edge of the CBD and to concentrate building height near the Metro station. These goals can still be achieved while changing some of the height limits in the study area.

- Support the "step down" of building heights from the Metro station area to the edges of
  the Central Business District, but provide incentives for increased building heights to
  encourage new opportunities for housing for all income levels. Specific height
  recommendations are discussed in the section entitled "Recommendations by Block
  Within the Study Area".
- Protect the sunlight to the area's main street, Norfolk Avenue, by approving development that steps back from Norfolk Avenue, particularly on the southwest side of the street.
- Limit the height along Old Georgetown Road north of St. Elmo Avenue to 50 feet, extending 60 feet back from Old Georgetown Road to maintain compatibility with existing development.

Page 10: Under Opportunities for Residential Development revise section as follows:

## [OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTIAL] MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT

[The Optional Method of Development is a tool to encourage housing and to provide public facilities and amenities. In exchange, the developer could provide additional residential density and height. Providing moderately priced dwelling units on-site is a priority for all projects that use the Optional Method of Development.] The 1994 Sector Plan capped heights within the CBD-1 Zone to 50 feet and limited FAR to the limits proscribed under the Standard Method of the CBD zones. This resulted in few development applications under the Optional Method of Development. This Amendment removes the height caps and recommends higher FARs to encourage use of the Optional Method to create more opportunities for residential development and also provide desired public facilities and amenities. The Woodmont Triangle Study Area is a desirable location for future residential development. Housing for a variety of incomes is

equally important. Building MPDUs within the study area is a priority for all projects developing under the Optional Method of Development.

- Density [The p] Properties [in the Woodmont Triangle Study Area will be provided the opportunity to] may develop to the density [specified] permitted in the CBD-1, CBD-2 and CBD-R2 Zones. [With this amendment,] CBD-1 mixed-use projects can achieve a floor area ratio (FAR) of [three] 3.0[,] and those in the CBD-2 and CBD-R2 Zones can achieve a FAR of [five] 5.0. [The existing Sector Plan limited the density in the Woodmont Triangle Study Area.]
- FAR [Building MPDUs on-site is a priority for all projects developing under the Optional Method of Development.] In order to encourage residential development, the recommended increase in density up to the maximum allowed would be for residential development. All CBD zoned parcels within the [Woodmont Triangle S] study [A] area will be limited to a [floor area ratio] FAR of [one] 1.0 for non-residential development. [Any increase in density up to the maximum allowed must be residential.]
- Public Use Space The public use space and amenity priorities [in the Woodmont Triangle] include improvements to the [public] streetscape, [improvements to] Battery Lane Urban Park, and support for the Arts and Entertainment District through providing public art and private arts facilities. Optional Method of Development projects may provide [their] required public use space [requirement] off-site [in the Woodmont Triangle], if needed to accommodate MPDUs [moderately priced dwelling units are provided] on-site. This Amendment recommends a text amendment that allows public use space to be provided off-site in the same density transfer area if the Planning Board finds that an off-site location implements a sector plan recommendation. If public use space is located on-site, it should contribute to establishing a variety of public spaces in the area. All developments should avoid extensive setbacks of retail from [public] the streets. Public spaces should support retail and an active pedestrian environment.

RETAIL PRESERVATION

The existing commercial enterprises in the study area provide needed goods and services. Some of the businesses are one-of-a-kind retail shops and restaurants, which contribute to the unique, urban flavor of the study area. This Amendment encourages the retention of this retail, as did the 1994 Plan, but recommends some additional mechanisms to allow for redevelopment. Reduction in minimum lot size and density transfers are intended to foster new small-scale retail in character with the existing retail environment in the Woodmont Triangle Study Area.

• Lot Sizes - Minimum lot sizes of 22,000 square feet were required for optional method of development in the CBD zones to be sure that significant amenity and public use space could be provided on site. Achieving these minimums in the study area would require assemblage of multiple parcels given the small size of most properties. Requiring larger projects is contrary to the Plan's goal of encouraging small retail. Moreover, the Plan's recommendation for off-site public amenities means that a threshold minimum lot size for optional method development is unnecessary in Woodmont Triangle Study Area.