

Item 4 - Correspondence

From: [Eileen McGuckian](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Submission for the Planning Board hearing record -- Item #4, meeting of September 24, 2020
Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 8:56:37 AM
Attachments: [MPI LETTER SEPT 22, 2020.docx](#)

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Greetings,

Attached is Montgomery Preservation's letter to submit for the hearing record of item #4, Planning Board meeting of September 24, 2020.

Please confirm that this has been received.

Thank you,

Eileen McGuckian, president
Montgomery Preservation
phileen3@verizon.net

MONTGOMERY

PRESERVATION

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To Promote the Preservation, Protection and Enjoyment of Montgomery County's Rich Architectural Heritage and Historic Landscapes

Casey Anderson, Chair
Montgomery County Planning Board
2425 Reedie Drive, Wheaton, MD 20902
Via email: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org September 22, 2020

Re: 8901 and 8907 Colesville Road (Martha B Gudelsky Child Development Center), Conditional Use and Preliminary Forest Conservation Plan
FOR THE HEARING RECORD - ITEM # 4 PB MEETING September 24, 2020

Dear Chairman Anderson and members of the Planning Board:

Montgomery Preservation (MPI), the county-wide nonprofit historic preservation organization, has been following and participating in the various stages of planning for the former Silver Spring Library site. MPI is delighted that a state-of-the-art child development center will occupy the site and will preserve and adaptively re-use the former library, a building we consider historically and architecturally significant. We also applaud the preservation of much of its surrounding and adjoining green space.

MPI is gratified that the process has progressed to conditional staff approval of the Gudelsky Foundation's request to establish a day care center on this site. Given the excellent credentials of the Gudelsky Foundation and its partner CentroNia, our organization is confident that once the Planning Staff's conditions for approval are met, Silver Spring will have a world-class child development center that will be a source of pride to Silver Spring and the County. The property's strong visible presence on Colesville Road will be enhanced by retaining the view of an iconic building that itself served the Silver Spring community since the mid-20th century. This is indeed an admirable and well-planned example of adaptive re-use.

Sincerely yours,

Eileen McGuckian, president
Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

From: [Busy Graham](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: September 24 Hearing re. Martha B Gudelsky Child Development Center in old Silver Spring Library -- Approval with conditions
Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 9:04:51 AM

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Dear Chair Casey Anderson and Planning Board Members:

I am writing as a long-time Silver Spring resident and as the founder of two Silver Spring nonprofits: Class Acts Arts (now Artivate) and Carpe Diem Arts. I currently serve as the executive director of Carpe Diem, a nonprofit arts outreach organization dedicated to engaging communities across generations, cultures and socio-economic divides through the visual, literary and performing arts, while also supporting the livelihoods of more than 150 master teaching and performing artists.

The Carpe Diem board and staff are particularly grateful for the prospect of the Gudelsky Child Development Center with partners CentroNia and Moya Design Enlivening the old Silver Spring Library and its green setting.

In addition to providing top quality childcare in response to the high demand from low-income families, along with affordable housing by Victory Housing at Viva White Oak for senior adults, the project will include community access to space in the evenings and weekends for a broad range of activities such as multi-cultural and intergenerational events, parent engagement workshops, visual, literary and performing arts classes and concerts.

There is compelling evidence based on extensive research as to the vital importance of early childhood education, increased affordable housing for seniors, along with the benefits reaped from intergenerational community activities.

The Gudelsky Center fulfills all three of these priority needs in our county.

This "Dream Come True" emerged from an extremely exacting and rigorous Request for Developmental Proposals process. Carpe Diem Arts participated in the on-site visits to the Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired former Library and property.

Two county executives and a unanimous county council approved the library and its green land's adaptive reuse as a child development center for our diverse and underserved community.

We were impressed from the beginning by the visionary proposal presented by the Gudelsky Foundation in partnership with CentroNia, and now joined by architects Moya Design.

We further applaud the Foundation and its partners as they expertly fulfill the required conditional use provisions for the preliminary forest conservation plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Busy Graham, Exec. Dir.

[Carpe Diem Arts](#)

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