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MontgomeryPlanning.org

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Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan, Implementation Advisory Committee Appointment

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Completed: 4/30/21

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve membership of the Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (GSSC IAC) to serve through December 31, 2022.

BACKGROUND

County Council Resolution #16-1325 approving the 2010 Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan included the following requirement to establish an advisory committee:

The Planning Board must establish an advisory committee of property owners, residents, and interested groups (including adjacent neighborhoods in Gaithersburg and Rockville), with representation from the Executive Branch, the City of Rockville, and the City of Gaithersburg that are stakeholders in the redevelopment of the Plan area – to evaluate the assumptions made regarding congestion levels, transit use, and parking. The committee's responsibilities should include monitoring the Plan recommendations, monitoring the CIP and Growth Policy, and recommending action by the Planning Board and County Council to address issues that may arise, including, but not limited to, community impacts and design, and the status and location of public facilities and open space.

Since 2010, members of the GSSC IAC have reviewed and provided input on a variety of development plans in the Life Sciences Center (LSC) district of the *Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan*; provided feedback and guidance on the Design Guidelines for the LSC Loop Trail; and contributed to the GSSC section of the Biennial Master Plan Monitoring Reports in 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2019.

Several members that served on the 2019-2020 GSSC IAC have agreed to remain on the committee for another term, including several property owners and representatives of the Executive Branch as well as the cities of Rockville and Gaithersburg. However, other members opted to step down from the committee at the end of the last term. While the GSSC IAC technically has representation from all areas specified by County Council Resolution #16-1325, there is currently only one citizen representative each from Montgomery County, the City of Rockville, and the City of Gaithersburg.

To ensure resident representation from Montgomery County as well as the adjacent municipalities, Staff seeks three to four additional citizen members to serve on the committee for the remainder of the 2021-2022 term. In an effort to recruit additional resident representatives, Staff solicited applicants through a press release, e-letter notifications and posting flyers within the community. However, only a few responses were received.

Staff proposes to extend our outreach efforts this spring to recruit a larger pool of applicants from which to select additional members of the committee. Outreach efforts may include additional coordination with community organizations, continued promotion and pop-up events in the community. Staff will request that applicants identify the communities, groups or voices in the county that they will represent, the unique perspective they will add to the committee and the community groups that they will keep informed of the ongoing efforts in the Great Seneca Science Corridor plan area. Staff will consider the diversity of backgrounds and experiences of applicants when recommending new committee members, in an effort to make the IAC as representative of the communities in the county as possible.

GSSC IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP, JANUARY 2021 – DECEMBER 2022

At this time, Staff recommends appointing the following property owners, residents and representatives of the Executive Branch as well as the Cities of Rockville and Gaithersburg, who have agreed to serve a new two-year term on the GSSC IAC through December 2022:

- Marilyn Balcombe, President/CEO, Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce, IAC Co-Chair
- Phil Usatine, Resident Representative, Washingtonian Woods HOA (City of Gaithersburg), IAC
 Co-Chair
- Art Slesinger, Resident Representative, Darnestown Civic Association (Montgomery County)
- Jane Briggs, Director of Facilities and Planning, Universities at Shady Grove
- Manisha Tewari, City of Rockville Government
- Tim Newell, Newell and Associates, representing the Banks Farm heirs
- Laura Mehfoud, City of Gaithersburg Government
- Kara Olsen Salazar, Office of the County Executive (Montgomery County Department of General Services)
- Gary Erenrich, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
- Larry E. Walker, President, The Walker Group on behalf of Adventist Health Care
- Jeff Weber, Resident Representative, The Homes at Fallsgrove (City of Rockville)
- Mitch Bonanno, Johns Hopkins University
- William De Pippo, Alexandria Real Estate Equities

NEXT STEPS

Staff proposes to return to the Board following our extended recruitment period to present additional members for approval.

On behalf of the Montgomery County Planning Department, Staff expresses gratitude for the contributions of all past members of the GSSC IAC, and gratitude for those who have agreed to serve new terms.