




**MCPB**

Item No. 1.c

Date: 09.23.2021

Bethesda Downtown Design Advisory Panel, Appointment of Panel Member

-  Grace Bogdan, Planner Coordinator, DownCounty, Grace.Bogdan@montgomeryplanning.org, 301.495.4533
-  Stephanie Dickel, Supervisor, DownCounty, Stephanie.Dickel@montgomeryplanning.org, 301.495.4527
-  Elza Hisel-McCoy, Chief, DownCounty, Elza.Hisel-McCoy@montgomeryplanning.org, 301.495.2115

Completed: 09.10.2021**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the reappointment of Rod Henderer as the representative from the Bethesda Community, for a three-year term ending November 2024.

DISCUSSION

The Bethesda Downtown Design Advisory Panel (DAP) is an integral part of the Bethesda Overlay Zone. The role of the DAP is to provide advice and recommendations that will heighten design excellence and improve the quality of architecture, urban design and landscape architecture in downtown Bethesda.

The DAP is composed of five volunteer members and an ex-officio member representing the Planning Director's Office. The panel currently includes three registered architects, one of whom represents the local community, one registered landscape architect, and a member of the development community.

The original DAP members appointed by the Planning Board in 2017 served staggered initial terms of two, three and four years, thereafter serving three-year terms. According to the Rules of Procedure, panel members interested in remaining on the panel may submit a letter requesting to renew their term to the Planning Board for approval. The Board reappointed two-year-term panel members Qiaoju Yu and George Dove in 2019 and three-year panel member Damon Orobona in November 2020, and appointed Brian Kelly for his first term in November 2020. The initial four-year term for Rod Henderer will expire in September 2021.

Rod Henderer represents the Bethesda Community while also being a practicing architect. In the attached letter, Mr. Henderer has described continued interest to serve a second term on the DAP. He has 45 years of experience in large-scale commercial projects, both within Montgomery County and the DC region as well as abroad. He has been an integral member of the panel, providing a voice for the community while pushing for design excellence. Staff recommends Mr. Henderer's reappointment.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Rod Henderer Letter of Intent to Renew DAP Term

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July 12, 2021

Montgomery County Planning Board
2425 Reddie Drive
Wheaton, Maryland 20902

RE: Appointment to the Bethesda Design Advisory Panel (DAP)

Dear Chairman Anderson and Members of the Board:

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Bethesda area representative for the Bethesda Design Advisory Panel for the last four years. Over the period, the Panel has reviewed and influenced the development of a wide range of projects. Within this period, several projects have gone through the entire cycle, from design through construction. We are now witnessing the completion of several of those projects, with the most significant being the Marriott's Headquarters.

As the Bethesda area representative, my advice and comments consider neighborhood concerns while evaluating projects relative to the 2017 Bethesda Downtown Plan and the Design Guidelines. My goal is to provide advice and critique to improve designs and proactively support projects that embrace design excellence.

I look at projects not only as a Bethesda area representative but through the eyes of a practicing architect with 45 years of experience with a background in large-scale civic and commercial projects. For example, over the last 20 years, I have led the design and master planning of FDA's campus in eastern Montgomery County, currently leading the design for the most significant Federal project in downtown Washington. In addition, I have designed several U.S. Embassies abroad and completed several large commercial projects in the U.S. and Asia, and the middle east.

My initial appointment for a 4-year term is now coming to an end. The planning Staff has asked if I would be interested in a reappointment for a second term. I would be honored to continue to serve if the Board deems my participation a worthy addition to the Panel's esteemed members. I look forward to the possibility of further supporting the County's urban planning goals.

Sincerely,

CallisonRTKL Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Rodman Henderer', is written over a horizontal line.

D. Rodman Henderer FAIA
Principal