

## SILVER SPRING DOWNTOWN DESIGN ADVISORY PANEL



### Description

Staff will present for Planning Board approval nominations for the five positions on the Silver Spring Downtown Design Advisory Panel as well as the draft Rules of Procedure.

Item

Silver Spring Downtown Design Advisory  
Panel

Date

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Lead Planner

Atara Margolies

Planning Division

Downcounty Planning

Staff Contact

[atara.margolies@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:atara.margolies@montgomeryplanning.org)

301-495-4558

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	Atara Margolies, Planner III, Downcounty Planning <a href="mailto:atara.margolies@montgomeryplanning.org">atara.margolies@montgomeryplanning.org</a> , 301-495-4558
	Larissa Klevan, Master Plan Team Supervisor, Downcounty Planning <a href="mailto:larissa.klevan@montgomeryplanning.org">larissa.klevan@montgomeryplanning.org</a> , 301-495-1326
	Elza Hisel-McCoy, Chief, Downcounty Planning <a href="mailto:elza.hisel-mccoy@montgomeryplanning.org">elza.hisel-mccoy@montgomeryplanning.org</a> , 301-495-2115

### Summary

In June 2022, the County Council approved and M-NCPPC adopted the *Silver Spring Downtown and Adjacent Communities Plan*. The Zoning Text Amendment that followed the Plan created the Downtown Silver Spring Overlay Zone (Overlay Zone). The Overlay Zone requires all Optional Method of Development projects in the zone to achieve the maximum Design Excellence Public Benefit Points. In the service of helping Applicants achieve those points, the Overlay Zone establishes a Design Advisory Panel (DAP).

The primary goal of the DAP is to provide advice and recommendations to Applicants to improve the quality of architecture, urban design, and landscape architecture in downtown Silver Spring. Guided by the Sector Plan and the accompanying Design Guidelines, the DAP's comments will also inform Staff's recommendation to the Planning Board for these development applications.

The DAP will include five volunteer members of the public that represent the diversity of the Silver Spring community, one ex-officio member from the Planning Director's office, and a staff facilitator. DAP candidates must have professional experience and/or expertise in the fields of urban design, architecture, landscape architecture or urban planning, or demonstrate substantial knowledge of current practices in the fields. At least one of the volunteer panel members must be a resident of Silver Spring.

Per the attached DAP draft Rules of Procedure, collectively the DAP should have the following expertise:

- A registered/experienced architect from the greater Montgomery County community;
- A registered/experienced landscape architect from the greater Montgomery County Community;
- An architect/urban designer representing academia;
- A Silver Spring community member who has a personal or professional interest in urban design, architecture, and/or landscape architecture; and
- A member of the development community. This person may be a developer, real estate professional or involved in real estate investment.

The Planning Department received 28 applications for the DAP positions. Staff vetted the applications for the five positions and interviewed three community member architect candidates. After considering the diversity of expertise, experience, and perspective, Staff nominates the following candidates for the inaugural Silver Spring Downtown DAP in staggered terms of two, three, and four years.

Bill Bonstra, founder of Bonstra Haresign Architects, is a registered architect from the greater Montgomery County community, and has over 30 years designing a variety of project types across the DC region and the country. Staff recommends a three-year term.

David Cronrath currently serves as the Associate Provost for Planning and Special Projects at the University of Maryland, is a former Dean of the UMD School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and has a 40-year career in architecture and academia. Staff recommends a three-year term.

Alice Enz is an architect and urban designer who has worked on projects all over the region and beyond. She is a Silver Spring community member who is passionate about the public realm. Staff recommends a four-year term.

Praj Kasbekar, from Enterprise Community Development, has 15 years of affordable housing development experience and previously served on the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board. Staff recommends a two-year term.

Qiaojue Yu is a former member of the Bethesda DAP and a registered landscape architect with 20 years of experience in the greater Montgomery County community. Staff recommends a two-year term.

Members of the public who were not selected may re-apply as member terms expire.

Staff also recommends approval of the attached draft DAP Rules of Procedure. These are closely modeled on the Bethesda DAP Rules of Procedure and guide the administrative functioning of the panel.

[Attachments](#)

Attachment 1 – Silver Spring Design Advisory Panel Rules of Procedure

Attachment 2 – Silver Spring Design Advisory Panel nominee qualifications