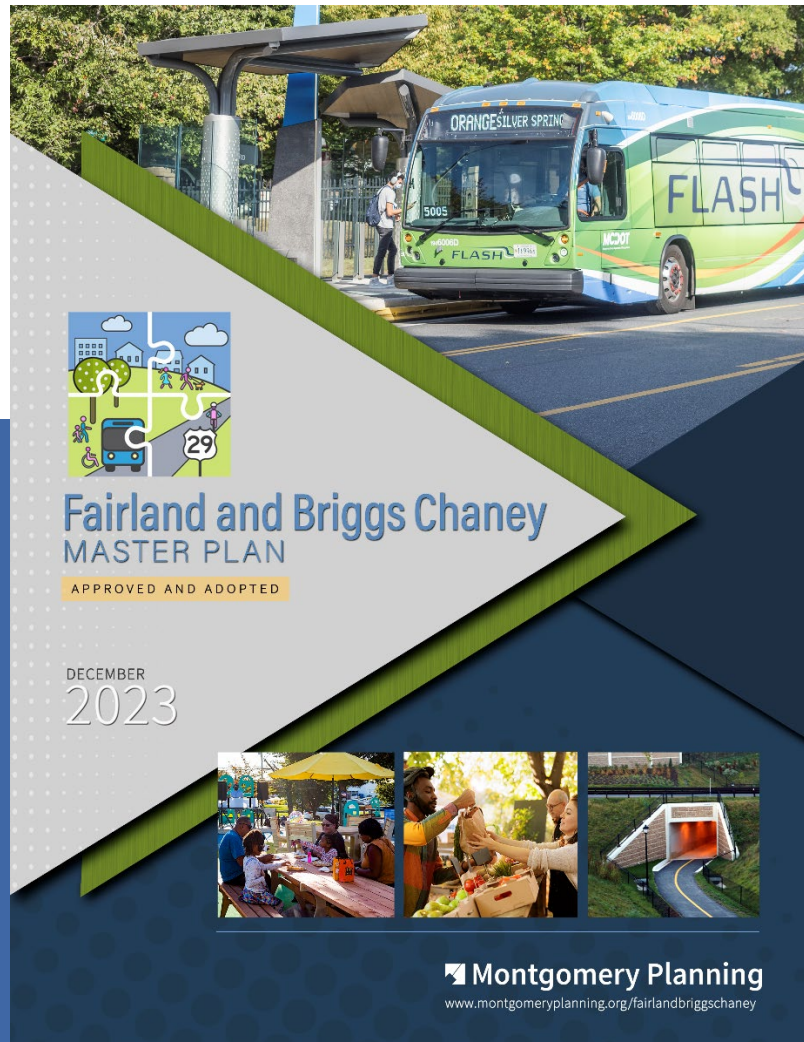






FAIRLAND AND BRIGGS CHANEY IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE – INITIAL APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS



Description

Appoint the initial slate of members to the Fairland and Briggs Chaney Implementation Advisory Committee, established by recommendation of the 2023 *Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan*.

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[Report Date](#)

July 19, 2024

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MCPB
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Summary:

This document contains the following information:

- A recommendation to appoint an initial slate of eleven (11) members to the Fairland and Briggs Chaney Implementation Advisory Committee, established per the recommendations of the 2023 *Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan*.
- A summary of the process to issue a call for letters of interest, review prospective candidates, and develop a recommendation for Planning Board appointments.

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE MASTER PLAN

The 2023 *Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan* is the first community and corridor-focused Master Plan to be approved and adopted after Thrive Montgomery, 2050. The *Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan* is an amendment to the 1997 *Fairland Master Plan* that seeks to establish a renewed vision for a portion of Columbia Pike (U.S. 29) over the next 10 to 20 years. The master plan embraces a future for this corridor as a more complete, equitable, transit-oriented, and compact community. The northern and southern limits of the plan area extend approximately five miles along the U.S. 29 corridor in east Montgomery County.

The *Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan* was approved by the Montgomery County Council on December 12, 2023, by Resolution Number 20-348. On December 21, 2023, the Montgomery County Planning Board approved the Resolution of Adoption, Resolution Number 23-124, and transmitted the plan to the Full Commission of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission adopted the approved plan by Resolution Number 24-03 on January 17, 2024.

PLAN RECOMMENDATION

The *Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan* includes the following recommendation and guidance to establish an advisory committee:

Recommendation 3.D.2.4 (page 72)

This plan supports the establishment of a Community Advisory Committee to help realize community-centered aspects of the Plan. The committee should work in coordination with the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center to build greater community understanding, advocacy, and engagement in the planning process, public improvements, and overall community health and well-being. Additional guidance for the committee is provided in the Implementation chapter of this Plan (see Section 5.D).

Section 5.D – Community Advisory Committee (page 131)

This Plan supports the creation of an advisory group to help realize its community objectives. Montgomery Planning should initiate the formation of a new advisory committee, with a staff liaison working in close coordination with civic, business, and neighborhood groups within the plan area.

The committee should work in coordination with the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center to build greater community understanding, advocacy, and engagement in the planning

process, public improvements, and overall community health. Members of the committee should include representatives from the various constituencies interested in implementing various aspects of the Plan, including residents, business owners, property owners, social services organizations, and civic leaders.

The advisory committee could undertake the following initiatives:

- Interact with property owners and developers to ensure that development is contributing to and meeting the needs of the community identified in this Plan.
- Seek to enhance commercial properties in the plan area by communicating and advocating with responsible county departments (e.g., MCDHCA, MCDOT, MCHHS, MCDPS, MCDEP, MCFRS) to help ensure consistent enforcement of property maintenance, building code, fire code, and parking standards. Efforts should seek to improve business success, customer and employee safety, health and comfort, efficient traffic and pedestrian circulation, green space maintenance, heat island mitigation, and aesthetics.
- Seek to improve multi-unit residential properties in the plan area by communicating and advocating with responsible county departments (e.g., MCDHCA, MCDOT, MCHHS, MCDPS, MCDEP, MCFRS) to help ensure consistent enforcement of property maintenance, building code, fire code, and parking standards to improve resident safety, health, and comfort.
- Explore potential partnerships, civic advocacy initiatives, financial resources, and development opportunities to support the implementation of transportation infrastructure and access improvements on private property in the plan area, in coordination with community stakeholders, and affected homeowners' associations and other property owners.
- Support initiatives to increase community education and engagement in the planning process.

To maintain consistency with similar committees in the county, and to indicate its primary role in supporting the implementation of master plan goals and recommendations, staff suggests that the Community Advisory Committee recommended in the master plan be named the Fairland and Briggs Chaney Implementation Advisory Committee.

CALL FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST AND CANDIDATE REVIEW

An initial call for applicants to join the Fairland and Briggs Chaney Implementation Advisory Committee (FBC IAC) was advertised on April 9, 2024, via the master plan's subscription eLetter, with an application deadline of April 30, 2024. Prospective candidates were asked to submit a letter of interest of no more than 300 words highlighting why they wished to serve on the committee and how their background and expertise make them a good candidate for the committee. In addition to the eLetter, staff conducted targeted outreach to other groups and individuals who were actively involved in the master plan update process, as well as through the Director of the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center.

After receiving too few letters of interest by the April 30 deadline to form a full committee, staff announced an extension of the application deadline through June 30, 2024, and made a more concerted effort to reach prospective candidates more widely. This second round was more successful in attracting candidate interest, with fifteen (15) letters of interest received overall. These candidates are listed below, sorted in alphabetical order by first name.

- Absa Fall
- Chrystel Akakpo
- Dan Wilhelm
- Jas Singh
- LaTonya Brooks
- Lester Ortiz
- Matthew Gordon
- Patrick DiGiovanni
- Radwan Chowdhury
- Rhondalyn Cox
- Sheila Hughes
- Sylvia Saunders
- Timothy Dugan
- Tracy Cooper
- Troy Horsley

The *Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan* does not specify the size of the advisory committee to be formed. However, staff believes that a committee of eleven (11) members is a suitable size for the committee. If the Planning Board supports this reasoning, only eleven (11) of the fifteen (15) interested candidates must be selected for the establishment of the Fairland and Briggs Chaney IAC.

Staff finds that all fifteen candidates who expressed interest in joining the FBC IAC are qualified candidates, who would each bring a unique perspective to the committee. To assist in selecting candidates to recommend for Planning Board appointment, staff reviewed all candidates with consideration to their community affiliation, relationship to the master plan area, and prior experience in the community and on other boards and committees, as expressed in their letters and supporting material. Staff's suggestion for Planning Board appointment of the first slate of FBC IAC members is provided in the Staff Recommendation, below.

COMMITTEE TERMS OF SERVICE AND BY-LAWS

As a newly-formed committee, members will be appointed to the Fairland and Briggs Chaney IAC by the Planning Board all at once. To support committee continuity and transitions as new, successive members are appointed, staff recommends appointing new members in staggered terms, in two-year to three-year terms. Ultimately, staff expects that all future members will be appointed for three-year terms.

Once appointed by the Planning Board, committee members will be supported by the designated Planning Staff liaison in establishing their own by-laws and may base them on established by-laws from existing advisory committees in the county if they so choose. The committee will also set their own work program and priorities in service of the *Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan* implementation. It is expected that the committee will report to the Planning Board on an annual basis to report on its progress and accomplishments.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

If the Planning Board agrees with staff's suggestion to appoint a committee of eleven (11) members, staff recommends approval of the following eleven (11) candidates as members of the inaugural Fairland and Briggs Chaney Implementation Advisory Committee, along with associated recommendations for initial staggered terms of service.

- Absa Fall – 2-year term
- Chrystel Akakpo – 3-year term
- Dan Wilhelm – 2-year term
- LaTonya Brooks – 3-year term
- Lester Ortiz – 2-year term
- Jas Singh – 3-year term
- Radwan Chowdhury – 2-year term
- Sylvia Saunders – 3-year term
- Timothy Dugan – 2-year term
- Tracy Cooper – 3-year term
- Troy Horsley – 2-year term

The selection of candidates represents a diversity of demographic backgrounds and experiences that are reflective of the *Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan* area and surrounding community. This includes candidates that have experience serving on the East County Citizens Advisory Board, membership of HOA and neighborhood associations in the area, and prior participation in the master planning process. The selection also includes individuals with professional planning experience, community organizing, and local business administration.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1: Letters of Interest from all fifteen candidates (sorted in alphabetical order by first name)