



*Gaithersburg*

*a CHARACTER COUNTS! City*

**CITY OF GAITHERSBURG  
MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2008  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING**

A meeting of the Historic District Commission was called to order at 8:15 p.m., Chair Katz presiding. Commissioners present: Ashman, Drzyzgula, Marraffa, and Spiegel. Commissioner Absent: Sesma. Staff present: City Manager Jones, Planner Voigt, City Attorney Board and Executive Assistant Stokes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Ashman, seconded by Commissioner Marraffa, that the minutes of a Historic District Commission meeting held November 3, 2008, be approved.

Vote: 5-0

**CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL**

- **HAWP-106A, Applicant: Pete Geiling, for the City of Gaithersburg, 100 DeSillum Avenue, Gaithersburg International Latitude Observatory Park Enhancements**

As the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) has an easement on the above mentioned property, the City presented proposed park improvements to the MHT Easement Committee at their August 2008 meeting. A letter of conditional approval was received from MHT. Based on the letter, staff recommended that the following condition shall apply: 1) Applicant shall meet the conditions stated by J. Rodney Little, Director, Maryland Historic Trust, in the letter dated August 14, 2008 to Mayor Sidney A. Katz.

Commissioner Drzyzgula questioned if the park would be open to the public upon completion. Planner Voigt responded that the park will be open from sunrise to sunset with programming potential.

Motion was made by Historic District Commissioner Ashman, seconded by Commissioner Drzyzgula, that the Historic District Commission grant approval of HAWP-106A with one condition as stated in the staff report and issue the Certificate of Approval, finding based on the record before HPAC and for the reasons articulated by HPAC, that the application meets the Secretary of Interior Standards Nine.

Vote: 5-0

Commissioner Drzyzgula stated that the City is making great strides in sustainability and working on the environment in the City. She raised the issue that some goals can be seen as if they are conflicting and competing with preservation. She suggested that HPAC investigate how other jurisdictions handle similar situations and perhaps develop guidelines that would permit goals to be made more compatible and not competing. The other Commissioners concurred.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Historic District Commission, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Doris R. Stokes*

Executive Assistant