

**Testimony of the City of Gaithersburg Before the Montgomery
County Board of Education on the Superintendent's
Recommended 2011 Capital Budget and Amendments to the
FY 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program**

November 11, 2009

Good evening President Brandman and members of the Board of Education. My name is Sidney Katz and I have the honor of being the Mayor of the City of Gaithersburg. I am here this evening to provide the City's comments on the Superintendent's recommended Capital Improvements Plan. While I realize you will also be holding a hearing on several clusters tomorrow night, your staff has informed us that it would be appropriate to provide testimony on all schools attended by Gaithersburg students this evening.

Dr. Weast and the MCPS staff have done an outstanding job with the budget, and the City pledges to work with you and the County Council to ensure that the projects outlined in the budget are funded at the appropriate level.

Gaithersburg High School is in extremely poor condition, limiting the educational opportunities for our students. It is imperative that the modernization of the school be completed by August 2014, as proposed in the Superintendent's Recommended Budget. This facility is 56 years old, and while it has had seven additions, it has yet to be completely renovated or modernized.

Sadly the modernization has been delayed in past Capital Budgets. To meet the August 2014 completion date it is essential that funds be appropriated in the FY 2011 Budget as proposed by the Superintendent.

We are pleased to see that Brown Station Elementary School is scheduled for a modernization to be completed in August of 2016; however, the school is projected to be overcapacity throughout the six year CIP. We are requesting that the Board accelerate funding for this modernization.

Strawberry Knolls Elementary School and Summit Hall Elementary School will also remain overcapacity by more than four classrooms throughout the six year CIP. We recommend that a facility planning study be completed for both schools as soon as possible to determine if capacity improvements are feasible.

The Mayor and City Council continue to be concerned about overcrowded conditions at Rachel Carson Elementary School. The school is currently operating with a deficit of 238 seats. Even after the Elementary Learning Center is relocated to Jones Lane Elementary School in August of 2010, the school will remain overcrowded by 174 seats. While we appreciate that you will be monitoring enrollment, we strongly recommend that a planning study be conducted in the very near future to address capacity concerns.

The proposed budget would fund improvements to Ridgeview Middle School that are scheduled for 2012. We share the concern of the community about an ineffective HVAC system at the school, and we look forward to this being among the improvements.

Whetstone Elementary School is significantly overcrowded and projected to be 149 students above capacity in the 2010 school year. We are very pleased that the Superintendent's recommendation for an FY 2010 appropriation was approved and we look forward to the completion of a much needed addition in 2011.

We also support the Superintendent's recommendation that the restrooms at Northwest High School be renovated in the 2015-2016 school year.

All of us in public service face the daunting task of trying to accomplish a lot with a little. We understand and appreciate the job you have before you of setting priorities and ensuring the highest educational experience for young people throughout this county. Our students are critical to our future, and as such we in Gaithersburg will continue to advocate on their behalf.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you tonight, and I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

CITY OF GAITHERSBURG
31 South Summit Avenue
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

**MINUTES OF THE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 1, 2009**

Acting Chair Clark Day called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Committee Members present: Clark Day, Acting Chair; Joe Coratola; Mary Jo La France; and Chris Kirtz. Absent: Richard Arkin, Chair, and Clark Wagner. Staff present: Eliza Voigt, Planner.

Acting Chair Day read the Preliminary Statement stating: this committee is empowered to meet and act under Article XII of the City Code of Gaithersburg. It is an advisory committee and will forward its recommendations from this meeting on to the Planning Commission, if required, and to the Historic District Commission who makes the final decision. The next meeting of the HDC is October 19, 2009. The technical qualifications of the staff of this committee, the members of the committee, and the members of the Historic District Commission, are on file with the City of Gaithersburg, are available on request to any applicant, and are hereby made a part of the legal record of each and every application heard today. Each application heard today is considered on its own merits and is not to be considered as establishing a precedent for any other application.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the September 3, 2009 Meeting

Motion was made by Member Coratola, seconded by Member La France, that the minutes of the September 3, 2009, Historic Preservation Advisory Committee (HPAC) meeting be approved.

VOTE: 3-0 -1 (Coratola abstained)

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

HAWP 12E Applicant: Richard and Judy Christiansen
6 Walker Avenue
Request: Renovate Enclosed Porch

Planner Voigt introduced the application. 6 Walker Avenue is a contributing resource to the Brookes, Russell and Walker (BRW) Historic District. The major changes include: moving the enclosed porch wall on the west side under the eave and reducing the depth of the enclosed area by 8 inches; reducing the number of windows from six to five and adding a support column, adding a 15-light French door at the rear, and transoms over entry doors.

Applicant Richard Christiansen stated that it was an open porch originally. Currently, the roof is sagging because there is not enough structural support. They decided that if they are going

to rebuild the porch, they want to move the wall slightly back in under the eave to suggest what it originally looked like as an open porch.

Applicant Judy Christiansen concurred and said that the porch needs more support for the window wall. It is bulging out due to the roof leaks. Inside, there are steel columns holding up the roof. Although there is symmetry now with the 6 windows, by removing one window and installing an exterior column, there will be more support. They received multiple design options and thought the five window design with a column replacing one of the existing windows was the best solution. She also mentioned that they are reusing the existing windows and the standing seam roof was previously done.

Member Coratola noted that the written report refers to a 15-light door, but it is not shown on the corresponding plans. Ms. Christiansen said the plans are not correct. They plan to match the existing doors on the other side of the porch which are 15-light doors.

Member La France asked what material is planned for the exterior of the porch. Mr. Christiansen responded that the siding material will be wood to match the existing siding.

Member Kirtz stated that this renovation will create a small, but subtle difference in bringing the lines back in harmony, and make the space more livable as well.

Ms. Christiansen remarked that she is applying for State tax credits and has submitted the paperwork.

The motion was made by Member Coratola, to close the record of HAWP 12E, seconded by Member Kirtz.

VOTE: 4-0

Member La France moved that HAWP 12E be recommended for approval, seconded by Member Coratola, finding the proposed alterations in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standard Ten, which states: "*New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form, and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired;*" and Standard Six which states, "*Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.*" The request is in conformance with the Brookes, Russell, and Walker Historic District Design Guidelines.

HAWP 12F Applicant: Richard and Judy Christensen
6 Walker Avenue
Request: Tree Removal

Applicant Judy Christiansen stated that she would like to remove the dying locust tree on the side of their property. She stated that dead tree bark is coming off at the base of the tree and one of the branches fell off and broke the car windshield. The tree is located near the garage and is a hazard.

Member Coratola said that he went to the site and the tree looked to be in very poor shape. Member Day stated that the tree inventory designated the tree in poor shape and that was ten years ago.

Both Members La France and Kirtz agreed that the tree is dead, is a hazard, and has served its time.

The motion was made by Member Coratola to close the record of HAWP 12F, seconded by Member Kirtz.

VOTE: 4-0

Member Kirtz moved that HAWP 12F be recommended for approval, seconded by Member La France, finding the proposed alterations in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standard Two, which states: "*The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.*" The tree should be removed because it has already lost limbs and it is in close proximity to the garage. The request is in conformance with the Brookes, Russell, and Walker Historic District Design Guidelines.

VOTE: 4-0

HAWP 52D Applicant: Dan and Eydie Searles
18 Walker Avenue
Request: Rear addition

Planner Voigt introduced the application. The applicant is requesting approval to extend the rear of their house with a one-story addition of approximately 350 square feet and add a new second story sleeping porch. The addition will not be visible from the street.

Member Coratola asked whether the applicant plans on removing the entire existing addition.

Architect Dana Hayden responded that they plan to keep one side of the structure (the left side), the floor and the foundation/crawl space. They will remove a portion of the existing stucco to delineate the change in old and new. They debated whether to add 5 feet of stucco to the addition on the left side or remove it entirely and replace it with siding.

Member Coratola commented that the joint between the stucco and new siding may be hard to functionally install and to cut the stucco accurately. One option is to bring the siding farther up the side of the house towards the front.

Applicant Searles stated at this point that this is not her preference, but she may consider it.

Member Coratola noted that the original porch had a header piece below the roof edge and asked if the applicant was planning on continuing this on the addition. Ms. Searles commented that, yes, they are going to continue the trim work.

Member Coratola asked how the sleeping porch is going to drain.

Ms. Hayden stated that the porch is going to drain off of the back. The gutters were not shown on the plans. They will use some type of elevated decking on top of the roof for the floor of the sleeping porch. She has used similar type of flooring on other sleeping porches to help with drainage.

Member Coratola asked about the window design. Most of the windows are show as two over two and will this be consistent throughout the house?

Ms Searles commented that the existing house is a mix of window types. Currently, there is a one over one window in the kitchen and they plan on matching the new windows in this area with this.

Member Kirtz offered that if possible, they should consider continuing the sleeping porch as a deck over the kitchen.

Acting Chair Day read Chair Arkin's emailed comments.

The motion was made by Member Kirtz to close the record of HAWP 52D, seconded by Member La France.

VOTE: 4-0

Member Coratola moved that HAWP 52D be recommended for approval, seconded by Member La France, finding the proposed alterations in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standard Ten, which states: "*New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form, and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired;*" and Standard 9 Nine, which states: "*New additions, exterior*

alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment," The addition has differentiated materials, the massing is in keeping with the original structure, and the addition could be removed in the future without detriment to the original house. The request is in conformance with the Brookes, Russell, and Walker Historic District Design Guidelines.

VOTE: 4-0

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Structure of the HDC:

Member Coratola stated that he and Acting Chair Day have been talking with the Mayor and City Council about the current composition of the HDC and whether they are willing to change the structure. Specifically, to create an HDC with members that are separate from the Mayor and City Council and meet State requirements. Members Coratola and Day, and Planner Voigt recently met with Cory Kegerise from the Maryland Historical Trust and developed a list of discussion points illustrating the reasons why it is important to separate the HDC and Mayor and City Council. Acting Chair Day asked whether HPAC supports the change in structure. HPAC members unanimously support the proposed change in structure. The next steps are a meeting with the City Manager and other City staff, and a Mayor and City Council work session on this topic.

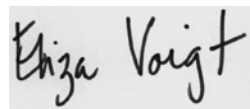
2. Preservation Maryland:

It was determined that 3 Walker Avenue should be nominated for the Preservation Maryland Historic Preservation Awards.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before this meeting of the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Eliza Voigt
Planner



November 6, 2009

Dear Resident:

Thank you for attending the October 7, 2009, Council in the Communities meeting that was held in your community. Staff has reviewed the action items that were identified and their preliminary responses are below:

1. PS Shady Grove Village II residents reported several instances of teenagers congregating in the pool area after dark. Could the City put this area on the list of potential sites for security camera locations?

Response: This complaint has been forwarded to the Street Crimes Unit for review. If it is determined this would be an appropriate location for a security camera, the community will be advised.

2. PW Several residents complimented the City regarding new Story Drive improvements. However, some residents were concerned that the double yellow center line is off center and forces motorists to cross the double yellow to avoid parked cars on Story Drive.

Response: The roadway section from County Court to Crown Farm Drive is 36 feet wide. A centerline stripe divides the road into two 18 foot sections that allows for a 10 foot travel way and a 7 foot unmarked parking area in each direction.

Parking is now allowed on both sides of Story Drive. Currently, parking is very light on the Crown Farm Drive side so that is why the road sections do not appear symmetrical.

A 36 foot roadway with two travel lanes and parking on both sides of the street is a standard road section. The City has used this same design on streets as narrow as 32 feet. (Action item completed)

3. PW Residents on Story Drive requested day lighting around the existing bus stop and installation of a trash container at this bus stop

Response: Staff has installed No Parking signs to daylight the various bus stops on Story Drive and School Drive. Staff has also added trash cans at 3 new locations along both Story Drive and School Drive. (Action item completed)

4. PW Residents reported the yellow curb areas on School Drive need to be repainted. Could the City schedule this?

Response: Currently the City only paints yellow curb to daylight 15 feet on either side on a fire hydrant.

At one time the city used yellow curb interchangeably with No Parking signs - however they are not the same. In most cases the yellow curb was used to highlight areas where parking was illegal under Section 21-1003 of the Maryland Vehicle Law.

In reality, yellow curbs indicates a Fire Lane and by law require both the yellow curb and a posted sign to indicate the area is a fire lane. In the city we have not designated fire lanes on public streets in residential neighborhoods. In these neighborhoods we have placed No Parking signs to restrict parking.

Staff reviewed the signing and marking along School Drive and added No Parking signs in any areas where yellow curb was previously placed that are not covered by our City Code or the Maryland Vehicle law. (Action item completed)

5. PW/PS Several residents expressed concern about the crosswalk across School Drive in front of Fields Road Elementary. Could the City provide additional enforcement as well as evaluate the area for lane and crosswalk signage and/or markings. Additionally, the flashing yellow signal for the crosswalk appears to be blinking late into the night. Could the City review this as well?

Response: The school flasher was repaired to flash at the appropriate time. Staff reviewed the signing and marking along School Drive to make sure all appropriate traffic controls are in place. (Action item completed)

Response: Police units monitored the cross walk yesterday found one person crossing. The police will monitor for the next several weeks to determine if it warrants further review.

6. PW Residents on Story Drive reported several street lights out on the Shady Grove Village side of Story Drive.

Response: PW staff inspected this area on two different occasions and found all lights on and functioning properly. If residents are aware of any additional outages please have them call Public Works at 301-258-6370. We will take the information and give it to our contractor to repair. Over 95% of the lights in the city are fixed within 5 days of staff being notified of the issue. (Action item completed)

7. PS Residents on Big Acre Square reported fire lane violations during afternoon school pick up between the hours of 3:00 pm and 3:30 pm and requested routine enforcement.

Response: Given to daytime work shifts and parking officer for attention. To date four citations have been issued.

8. PCA Some residents who frequent the Dog Exercise Area reported non-member users in the afternoon hours between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

Response: Animal Control staff has increased routine inspections of the Dog Exercise Area. Due to daylight savings, evening hours for the Dog Exercise Area will be somewhat limited for the remainder of the season.

9. PW Gold Kettle Drive residents reported the Gold Kettle Drive intersection closest to Diamondback has a sight distance issue when looking left to leave the community due to cars parked along Story Drive. Could the City review this area for adequate sight distance?

Response: Staff recently daylighted this intersection to provide additional sight distance. (Action item completed)

- 10. PCA** The homeowners association reported difficulty in contacting PEPCO to trim trees along Muddy Branch adjacent to PEPCO power lines. Could the City look into who is responsible for this maintenance? (Ossont)

Response: Neighborhood Services staff performed a site inspection and found branches in the cable lines. There are no power lines along the section of utility lines. The property manager, Bruce Blumberg, was notified on Friday October 16, 2009, thus far he has not responded.

Shady Grove Village is responsible for trimming the trees.

- 11. PW** Residents reiterated concerns about lack of street lighting on Diamondback Drive. Could the City review?

Response: Staff had previously contacted Montgomery County about adding additional lights on the south side of Diamondback Drive. Montgomery County has reviewed the request and the project is on a list of large scale projects, waiting for funding to become available. No timetable was provided by the County on when this work could move forward. (Action item completed)

- 12. PW** Residents had concerns about the traffic signals in the vicinity of Story Drive and Diamondback Drive.

Response: The County recently corrected several operational issues at both the Diamondback Drive/Story Drive and the Diamondback Drive/Sam Eig Highway intersections in an effort to improve traffic flow in this area.


However, it is important to note that traffic coming from Story Drive will generally be at a disadvantage since they will be required to wait at both the Diamondback Drive/Story Drive and Diamondback

Council In Communities Action Items
Page 5
November 6, 2009

Drive/Sam Eig Highway while the legs of these intersections with heavier traffic volumes are being serviced. Then when this traffic gets to the Fields Road intersection they are required to wait once again due to the way traffic progression along Sam Eig Highway is set up.

I hope this information is helpful. If you should have any questions or wish to discuss, please feel free to contact me at 301-258-6310.

Sincerely,



Angel L. Jones
City Manager

cc: Mayor and City Council

For Release November 6, 2009

Unique One-Man Show Production of “A Christmas Carol” Set to Delight Holiday Audiences at Arts Barn

Gaithersburg, MD. The Arts Barn, the City of Gaithersburg’s premiere cultural arts facility, presents a very unique Forged Chains production of *A Christmas Carol – A Ghost Story of Christmas* December 3 through 20, 2009. Performances will be held on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., with matinee performances on Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Admission is \$18, \$16 for City of Gaithersburg residents and \$9 for children under 18. The show is recommended for audiences 8 and older.

This brand new one-man show adaptation of “A Christmas Carol” recounts the Charles Dickens tale of Ebenezer Scrooge and an evening of ghostly visitations. Bringing this powerful tale of redemption to the stage is area actor Paul Morella, seen at the Arts Barn Theatre in last season’s critically acclaimed “The Clarence Darrow Story.”

The Arts Barn is located at 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg. For more information and tickets call 301-258-6394 or visit online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/artsbarn.

###

Mayor
Sidney A. Katz

City Manager
Angel L. Jones

Council Members

Jud Ashman Cathy C. Drzyzgula Henry F. Marraffa, Jr. Michael A. Sesma Ryan Spiegel

For Release November 9, 2009

Kentlands Mansion Gallery Hosts Multi Media Exhibit

Gaithersburg, MD. A multi media exhibit featuring the works of John Hastie, Sheila Kaplan, Joan Lok, Jeanne Powell, Darla Tagrin, and Estelle Zorman will be on display at the City of Gaithersburg's Kentlands Mansion Gallery from November 13, 2009 through January 10, 2010. Viewing is by appointment only. An artists' reception will be held on Tuesday, December 1 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The Mansion is located at 320 Kent Square Road in Gaithersburg.

John Hastie paints primarily en plein air using various media, including watercolor, oil, pastel, and acrylic. He prefers to work rapidly to capture the fleeting light of nature and his approach ranges from realistic to interpretative, often using an impressionistic style. Subjects of interest include both well-known and obscure locales around Montgomery County. In 2007 Hastie was awarded the Sharon Sage award for best in show at the Gaithersburg Fine Arts Association exhibit and in 2008 he received a national Paint America 100 Award.

Involved in various artistic endeavors all her life, **Sheila Kaplan** started a serious study of oil painting 12 years ago, drawn to the infinite possibilities of expression with oil paints and the physicality of the paint itself. Her need to paint is fueled by the desire to capture the immediacy and fleeting moments of nature and the world around us, and she likes to create a sense of place, a physical reality of land and space and objects. With painting Kaplan hopes to bring the viewer back to the present moment, by seeing an image with new eyes, and to remind us of the preciousness of each moment.

Joan Lok is an artist and educator committed to creating artwork as a passage to harmony and cultural diversity. Born in Hong Kong, Lok came to America in 1983 after winning an international cultural exchange scholarship. One of her masterful landscapes won the 2005 National Cherry Blossom Festival Art Contest and was made into posters and used for merchandising. Committed to moving forward the awareness and appreciation of the art of brush painting outside Asia, Lok has been re-elected four times since 2002 to serve as the National President of the Sumi-e Society of America. From 2003 to 2007 she served as a Commissioner of the Maryland Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

-more-

Mayor
Sidney A. Katz

City Manager
Angel L. Jones

Council Members

Jud Ashman Cathy C. Drzyzgula Henry F. Marraffa, Jr. Michael A. Sesma Ryan Spiegel

2 – 2 – 2 / Kentlands Mansion Art Gallery Exhibit

Jeanne Powell was introduced to the joy of painting while traveling as a photographic observer on international workshops with Walt Barman (Yellow Barn, Glen Echo). In 2003 her semi-retirement from a professional career as a research economist at NIST afforded her the time to pursue painting. With wonderful surprise, Powell found that plein air painting enriched her travel experience far beyond what her camera could, while introducing her to the beauty and variety of the Maryland landscape. Her paintings have been accepted in 10 juried shows sponsored by the Yellow Barn and the Gaithersburg Fine Arts Association, and she won a first prize in the 2006 Annual Montgomery Village Foundation Arts, Crafts and Photography Show.

From her childhood in rural New York state, **Darla Tagrin's** heart has always been in the woods. She feels that the way that veins in a leaf are repeated in tree branches and roots, in a river system and in the blood vessels in your body offers a more profound truth than anything written on paper. On the road to becoming an artist, Tagrin has been a waitress, retail clerk, billboard designer, science fiction book and magazine illustrator, and orange picker. She believes that what we do influences what we see in the world, and her goal has always been to lead people to look at what is in front of them in new ways. Tagrin paints mainly in oils, leaving room for ambiguity and the viewer's imagination, because for her, art should be a conversation rather than a lecture.

Encouraged to draw at a very young age by an aunt in her native Slovenia, **Estelle Zorman** used art to communicate with teachers and American friends before learning English. During ten years as an elementary school teacher, her students were always glad to hear Zorman say, "Ok, let's illustrate this subject." Often in her paintings of landscapes and seascapes are hidden and not-so-hidden symbols of realities beyond what we can see with our physical eyes. For Zorman, creating a painting is life giving and joyful. It is also her way of playing, and play for her is one of the highest of human activities. Her watercolor and acrylic paintings live all over the world, as far as Australia, Korea, Hawaii, Canada, Slovenia, and throughout the United States.

Please note that all images are copyrighted by the artists. For more information please call Gallery Director Natalya Parris at 301-258-6350 or 301-258-6394. For viewing appointments please contact the Mansion staff at 301-258-6425 or visit the Mansion online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/kentlandsmansion.

###

Mayor
Sidney A. Katz

City Manager
Angel L. Jones

Council Members

Jud Ashman Cathy C. Drzyzgula Henry F. Marraffa, Jr. Michael A. Sesma Ryan Spiegel



Britta Monaco
Public Information Director
301-258-6310

www.gaithersburgmd.gov

For Release November 9, 2009

Thanksgiving Day Recycling to be Picked Up the FOLLOWING Saturday

Gaithersburg, MD. The City of Gaithersburg announces that the collection of recycled materials for residents whose regular recycling day is Thursday, November 26, 2009 will take place the FOLLOWING Saturday, November 28. This includes newspaper, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, and commingled materials, as well as brush, branches, grass clippings, leaves and other yard trimmings, picked up by the City's recycling contractor.

Regular trash and garbage collection for City residents is handled by private contractors. Please contact your HOA or your private contractor regarding the holiday collection schedule for these materials.

For more information please contact the City's Department of Public Works at 301-258-6370, or visit the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

###

Mayor
Sidney A. Katz

City Manager
Angel L. Jones

Council Members

Jud Ashman Cathy C. Drzyzgula Henry F. Marraffa, Jr. Michael A. Sesma Ryan Spiegel