

*JOINT WORK SESSION:
2009 ENVIRONMENT &
SUSTAINABILITY ELEMENT
MASTER PLAN UPDATE*



Gaithersburg

Monday, January 12, 2015

Background

2

- September 8, 2014, staff released MP-1-14, the draft Environment & Sustainability Element of the 2009 Master Plan update, for the required 60 day public comment period
- The joint public hearing before the Mayor & City Council and Planning Commission was held November 17, 2014

Background

3

During the 60 day period comments were received from eleven various organizations:

- ❑ Regional: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- ❑ State: Department of Planning
- ❑ County: Montgomery County Planning Department
- ❑ City: Environmental Affairs Committee
- ❑ Local: Muddy Branch Alliance

Background

4

Following the Public Hearing:

- ❑ Staff reviewed all comments received, including those presented during the hearing
- ❑ Explored sections of the draft element to update or expand since the September release
- ❑ Noted changes to correct grammar, punctuation, or other minor clerical revisions such as the addition of North Arrows on maps

The draft Element was then revised and released on December 17, 2014

Purpose & Need/Introduction

5

No Changes

Environmental Regulations and Policies: Federal, State, and Local Mandates and Programs

6

Added NPDES General Discharge Permit for Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activities

Natural Resources

7

- Added new narrative to begin Chapter 4 identifying City regulations governing natural resources
- Added new chapter subsection, 4.5, to address Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

Urban Forestry

Changes to Recommendations:

- New- Review “right tree, right place” practices in all planting projects
- Develop guidelines for, and publically and/or privately fund, a City grant program to subsidize all or a portion of the cost of planting trees on private property. Grants should be made available to qualified homeowners, civic organizations, religious institutions, and other not-for-profit organizations

Watershed and Stormwater Management

- Narrative updated to reflect completed Watershed Studies and provided links to said studies
- Included new recommendations such as:
 - ▣ Work with DNR and local watershed groups through the Streamwaders volunteer stream monitoring program to continue gathering water quality data for City watersheds

Environmental Planning, Health, and Sustainability

10

- Changes to *7.4 Air Quality* to reflect revisions, new data and maps collected following the joint public hearing
- Addition of new more detailed food access analysis with revised maps, tables using more current and expanded data than the USDA analysis
- Addition of further analysis regarding open space access by households with revised map
- Addition of new recommendations

Environment and Sustainability Master Plan Implementation Strategies

11

Added new Chapter 8, Environment and Sustainability Master Plan Implementation Strategies, to provide a matrix identifying mechanisms/strategies to implement the various recommendations included within the Element

Environment and Sustainability Master Plan Implementation Strategies

12

“The matrix illustrates that certain recommendations may be implemented through multiple independent means. Each identified method may by itself or in tandem with other identified methods accomplish the associated recommendation. The matrix does not weigh each strategy as to its effectiveness related to another strategy nor does it define a timetable for action...”

Environment and Sustainability Master Plan Implementation Strategies

13

- ❑ **Policy Action:** This method involves the establishment of policies or guidance by City officials, such as the City Council, Planning Commission, et al. that do not result in changes to the City Code or formalized regulations. Examples include the annual Strategic Plan and the Process & Overview Element to the Master Plan.
- ❑ **Code/Regulatory Action:** This method includes instances when a City policy results in the establishment of regulatory, binding requirements that must be adhered to. Examples include the Forest Conservation Ordinance, City technical manuals, Traffic Impact Statement Regulation, and the City Public Reforestation Policy.
- ❑ **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)/ Budget:** This method involves dedicated funding of a specific project or program that will accomplish the associated recommendation. Examples include stream restoration projects, the purchase of software, and the hiring of technical consultants.
- ❑ **City Staff:** While all methods involve City Staff, this method reflects an action solely accomplished by staff members. Examples include research and analysis efforts, grant writing, and site plan review.
- ❑ **Interagency Cooperation:** This method involves cooperative City efforts, studies, and projects conducted or cost-shared with other Public Sector or quasi-Public Sector organizations or agencies such as Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Maryland Department of the Environment, and WSSC. Also included in this category are the utilities such as Pepco and Washington Gas.
- ❑ **Public-Private Partnerships:** This method involves cooperative City efforts, studies, and projects conducted or cost-shared with Private Sector entities. These groups may include the business community, Homeowners' Associations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Non-Profit Organizations, and religious institutions.
- ❑ **Private Involvement and Action:** This method reflects actions taken by individual City of Gaithersburg residents, the development community, Homeowners' Associations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Non-Profit Organizations, and religious institutions outside of City programs and projects. Examples include household recycling, donation of land to land trusts, and community volunteer activities.

Appendices

- Appendix D: Added UFORE FAQ's to explain the UFORE model
- Appendix F: Added Food Access Methodology comparing USDA and Staff methods

Next Steps

- Planning Commission Record Closes 5 PM
February 6, 2015 with an anticipated
Planning Commission Recommendation
February 18, 2015
- Mayor & City Council Record Closes 5PM
February 26, 2015 with an anticipated Mayor
& City Council Policy Discussion March 16,
2015



City of Gaithersburg

31 South Summit Avenue
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

Mayor and City Council Work Session Minutes City Hall - Council Chambers Monday, January 12, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

A work session of the Mayor and City Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m., Mayor Ashman presiding. Council Members present: Drzyzgula, Harris, Marraffa, Sesma, and Spiegel. Planning Commission Present: Bauer, Hopkins, and Kaufman. Staff present: City Manager Tomasello, Deputy City Manager Enslinger, City Attorney Board, Assistant City Attorney Johnson, Long Range Planning Manager Robinson, Environmental Specialist Strider and Sustainability Planner Backe.

II. DISCUSSION TOPIC

A. Joint - MP-1-14, Environment & Sustainability Element, an Amendment to the 2009 Master Plan

Long Range Planning Manager Robinson gave a presentation documenting chapter by chapter the changes made to the Environment & Sustainability Element update to the 2009 Master Plan in response to comments received and following the November 17, 2014 joint public hearing. The Mayor and Council and Planning Commission provided comments and were appreciative of staff's efforts. Mayor Ashman and Planning Commission Chair Bauer complemented the addition of the implementation matrix, "Environment and Sustainability Master Plan Implementation Strategies". One comment was made by Council to add clarification language to one recommendation to include "property owners". No public comment was provided. Staff received guidance to proceed with the draft Element to Planning Commission recommendation.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Outside

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before this session of the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Robinson, Long Range Planning Manager
Meredith Strider, Environmental Specialist

Joint Hearing - MCC & PC
MP-1-14
29

Dyan Backe, Sustainability Planner