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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF PLANNING

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Office of the Director

MEMORADUM

TO: Zoning Commission

FROM: Andrew Altman, Director
Office of Planning

DATE: June 28, 2002

SUBJECT: Waiver of Rules for Late Submittal of additional information regarding a definition for community center for consideration with the proposed Text Amendment regarding Public Recreation Facilities and Public Community Centers as a matter-of-right use in R Residence zones;
Case Number 02-15

The attached memorandum is being submitted less than 10 days prior to the Zoning Commission's scheduled public hearing. The Office of Planning respectfully requests that the Commission waive its rule and accept the memorandum into the record.

Attachments

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-15
Exhibit 17

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-15
EXHIBIT NO.17

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Office of the Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: D.C. Zoning Commission

FROM: Andrew Altman
Director

DATE: June 26, 2002

SUBJECT: Definition of Community and Recreation Center for the proposed **Text Amendments to Permit Public Recreation and Public Community Center uses as a matter-of-right in the R-1 zone.**

At the February 2002 Zoning Commission meeting the Commission set down the proposed text to create a matter-of-right use category for public recreation facilities and public community centers. Chairperson Mitten noted that private community centers are called out as a special exception in the R Residence zones and community centers are called out as a matter-of-right in the SP special purpose zone but there is no definition of "community center."

OP staff surveyed surrounding jurisdictions and did not find any similar language. The Fairfax Regional Park Authority does not have a definition but reported that they distinguish between the two on the basis of fees and financial support: a recreation center is a fee based facility with programs that must be financially self supporting and the activities include an emphasis on athletics and active recreation; a community center does not have a fee structure for activities, the center may include some general athletic facilities such as basketball courts but the emphasis is on community supporting activities such as classes and gathering space.

Definition
The Office of Planning has drafted the following Community Center definitions for consideration:

Community Center, Public:
A building owned and operated by the District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation. A public community center offers programs with emphasis on community supporting activities such as classes, arts and crafts activities, gathering spaces and some accessory athletic facilities.

Community Center, Private:
A facility operated by a local community organization or association which is organized to promote the cultural and social enrichment of the neighborhood in which it is proposed to be located. Such local community organization or association operating a private community center shall not be organized for profit.

AA/jls$_{AICP}$

ZC-02-15