

**ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
NOTICE OF LIMITED SCOPE PUBLIC HEARING**

TIME AND PLACE: **Thursday, March 23, 2017, @ 6:30 p.m.**
Jerrily R. Kress Memorial Hearing Room
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 220-South
Washington, D.C. 20001

FOR THE LIMITED PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING THE ISSUES REMANDED BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS TO THE ZONING COMMISSION PERTAINING TO THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION:

CASE NO. 13-14 (Vision McMillan Partners LLC and the District of Columbia – First-Stage and Consolidated PUDs and Related Map Amendment @ 2501 First Street, N.W. (Square 3128, Lot 800))

THIS CASE IS OF INTEREST TO ANCs 5E, 5A, and 1B

Through Zoning Commission Order No. 13-14, as corrected (“the Order”), the Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia (the “Commission”) approved an application for a planned unit development (“PUD”) pertaining to the McMillan Reservoir Slow Sand Filtration Site, located at 2501 First Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. (Square 3128, Lot 800) in Washington, D.C. (the “Property”). The application was submitted by Vision McMillan Partners, LLC, on behalf of the District of Columbia through the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, the owner of the Property (collectively, the “Applicant”). The Order approved a first-stage and consolidated PUD and related map amendment to rezone the Property from unzoned to the CR and C-3-C zone districts. The parties in the case were the Applicant, ANC 5E, the ANC in which the PUD site is located, and Friends of McMillan Park (“FOMP”).

FOMP petitioned the District of Columbia Court of Appeals to review the Order. A division of that court decided to “vacate the Commission's order and remand for further proceedings.” *Friends of McMillan Park v. D.C. Zoning Comm'n*, 149 A.3d 1027, 1035 (D.C. 2016) (the “Opinion”).

At its public meeting held January 30, 2017, the Commission voted to hold a limited scope public hearing on the issues remanded. The parties in the original case remain as parties in this remand and may present testimony and legal argument limited to the following issues, which are stated below using the same subject headings as used in the Opinion. The Applicant has the burden of proof as to all the issues.

A. Consistency with the Comprehensive Plan

Subsection 2403.4 of the Zoning Regulations of 1958 (Title 11 DCMR)¹ requires the Commission to “find that the proposed PUD is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan and with other adopted public policies and active programs related to the subject site.”

The Comprehensive Plan’s Future Land Use Map designates future uses at the McMillan site as “moderate density commercial,” “medium density residential,” and “parks, recreation, and open space.” The Commission agreed to permit to high-density development on the northern portion of the site concluding that, when the entire site is taken into account, the PUD’s overall density is consistent with that permitted in moderate-density commercial zones. The Court agreed with that interpretation. However, the Mid-City Area Element provides that development on the McMillan site “should consist of moderate- to medium-density housing, retail, and other compatible uses.” (10-A DCMR § 2016.9 (2016).) In response, the Commission found that permitting the high-density development was “a critical and essential part of fulfilling the parks, recreation, and open space designation of the Future Land Use Map, while at the same time achieving other elements of the Comprehensive Plan and the city’s strategic economic plan.” The Court concluded that further explanation was needed.

Issue No. 1

- A. Could the other policies cited in the Order be advanced even if development on the site were limited to medium- and moderate-density use?
- B. If not, which of the competing policies should be given greater weight and why?

The Court also found that Commission failed to adequately address a number of provisions in the Comprehensive Plan that FOMP claimed weighed against approval of the PUD, including provisions discouraging the placement of large buildings near low-density residential neighborhoods (10-A DCMR §§ 305.11, 309.10, 309.15 (2016)), and a provision encouraging geographic dispersion of health-care facilities (10-A DCMR § 1105.1 (2016)).

Issue No. 2.

Do these or other Comprehensive Plan policies cited by FOMP in the record of this case weigh against approval of the PUD?

B. Other Objections to the Commission's Order

After determining to vacate the Order based upon its Comprehensive Plan discussion, the Court briefly addressed “several additional issues that could affect proceedings on remand.” (149 A.3d at 1035.) Those additional issues are as follows:

¹ Because this application was originally setdown for hearing prior to the repeal of the 1958 Zoning Regulations, it will be decided under the PUD standards existing prior to the September 6, 2016 repeal, but heard in accordance with the contested case provisions of Title 11-Z, Chapter 4 of the 2016 Zoning Regulations.

1. Preservation of Open Space

Policy MC-2.6. of the Mid City Element provides in part:

Require that reuse plans for the McMillan Reservoir Sand Filtration site dedicate a substantial contiguous portion of the site for recreation and open space

The Court expressed its doubt that this policy was mandatory and therefore concluded that the “Commission might be able to permissibly conclude that the need to preserve open space justified the inclusion of some high-density development on the site.” (149 A.3d at 1036.)

Issue No. 3

Is the high-density development proposed for the site the only feasible way to retain a substantial part of the property as open space and make the site usable for recreational purposes?

2. Adverse Impacts

The 1958 PUD Regulations provide:

2403.3 The impact of the project on the surrounding area and the operation of city services and facilities shall not be found to be unacceptable, but shall instead be found to be either favorable, capable of being mitigated, or acceptable given the quality of public benefits in the project.

2403.8 In deciding a PUD application, the Commission shall judge, balance, and reconcile the relative value of the project amenities and public benefits offered, the degree of development incentives requested, and any potential adverse effects according to the specific circumstances of the case.

The Court concluded that the Commission “failed to adequately address a variety of asserted adverse impacts of the PUD, including environmental problems, destabilization of land values and displacement of neighboring residents, and increased demand for essential public services.” (149 A.3d at 1036.)

Issue No. 4

A. Will the PUD result in environmental problems, destabilization of land values, or displacement of neighboring residents or have the potential to cause any other adverse impacts identified by the FOMP in the record of this case.?

- B. If so, how should the Commission judge, balance, and reconcile the relative value of the project amenities and public benefits offered, the degree of development incentives requested, and these potential adverse effects.

Issue No. 5

- A. Will the PUD have a favorable impact on the operation of city services and facilities?
- B. If not, is the impact capable of being mitigated, or acceptable given the quality of public benefits in the project?

As to the issue of city services, the Commission notes the discussion in the Opinion concerning the failure of certain District agencies to respond to referrals made by the Office of Planning. At the time it voted to hold this hearing, the Commission requested that the Office of Planning again refer the application to the non-responding agencies. If less than all of the agencies fail to respond, the Commission will hear from the parties as to the significance, if any, of such non-response on the Commission's disposition of this issue.

If any party believes that the issues stated above do not accurately or fully reflect the issues remanded, that party must, no later than 3:00 p.m. on March 13, 2016, file with the Office of Zoning, and serve upon the other parties, a written statement identifying the asserted deficiency(ies) and offering revised language for the existing or any proposed additional issue identified. If no such submission is timely made by a party, that party is deemed to have agreed that the scope of this hearing fully encompasses the issues on remand.

In addition, any party by that same date and time may file a written statement responding to the remand issues stated above. No response to another party's filing will be accepted.

Other than these two submissions, and the Office of Planning and other agency reports discussed above, no submissions may be entered into the record by any party or person. During the hearing, the Commission will accept written statements offered by witnesses and exhibits offered by the parties.

The record in this remand proceeding includes the entire record of Zoning Commission Case No. 13-14. The Parties and public witnesses are to avoid repetitious testimony.

This public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the contested case provisions of the Zoning Regulations, 11 DCMR Subtitle Z, Chapter 4.

How to participate as a witness.

Interested persons or representatives of organizations may be heard at the public hearing. The Commission also requests that all witnesses prepare their testimony in writing, submit the written testimony prior to giving statements, and limit oral presentations to summaries of the most important points. Prior to speaking, each witness is requested to identify, by number, the remand

issue or issues being addressed, which should also be indicated on any written testimony. The applicable time limits for oral testimony are described below.

Time limits.

For each segment of the hearing conducted on the dates listed above, the following maximum time limits for oral testimony shall be adhered to and no time may be ceded:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Applicant | 60 minutes. |
| 2. FOMP | 60 minutes |
| 3. Organizations | 5 minutes each |
| 4. Individuals | 3 minutes each |

Pursuant to Subtitle Z § 408.4, the Commission may increase or decrease the time allowed above, in which case, the presiding officer shall ensure reasonable balance in the allocation of time between proponents and opponents.

ANTHONY J. HOOD, ROBERT E. MILLER, PETER A. SHAPIRO, PETER G. MAY, AND MICHAEL G. TURNBULL ----- ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, BY SARA A. BARDIN, DIRECTOR, AND BY SHARON S. SCHELLIN, SECRETARY TO THE ZONING COMMISSION.

Do you need assistance to participate? If you need special accommodations or need language assistance services (translation or interpretation), please contact Zee Hill at (202) 727-0312 or Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov five days in advance of the meeting. These services will be provided free of charge.

¿Necesita ayuda para participar? Si tiene necesidades especiales o si necesita servicios de ayuda en su idioma (de traducción o interpretación), por favor comuníquese con Zee Hill llamando al (202) 727-0312 o escribiendo a Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov cinco días antes de la sesión. Estos servicios serán proporcionados sin costo alguno.

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Quý vị có cần trợ giúp gì để tham gia không? Nếu quý vị cần thu xếp đặc biệt hoặc trợ giúp về ngôn ngữ (biên dịch hoặc thông dịch) xin vui lòng liên hệ với Zee Hill tại (202) 727-0312 hoặc Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov trước năm ngày. Các dịch vụ này hoàn toàn miễn phí.

ለሚሳተፍ ዕርዳታ ያስፈልግዎታል? የተለየ እርዳታ ካስፈለገዎት ወይም የቋንቋ እርዳታ አገልግሎቶች (ትርጉም ወይም ማስተርጎም) ካስፈለገዎት እባክዎን ከስብሰባው አምስት ቀናት በፊት ዚ ሂልን በስልክ ቁጥር (202) 727-0312 ወይም በኢሜል Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov ይገናኙ። እነኚህ አገልግሎቶች የሚሰጡት በነጻ ነው።