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**PLANNING COMMISSION
Monday
August 26, 2019**

The Planning Commission met in public session on Monday, August 26, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Herndon Council Chambers Building, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon, Virginia. In attendance were: Chair C. Melissa Jonas, Vice Chair George Burke, and Commissioners Marcia Bouchard, Paul LeReche, Kevin Moses and Sean Regan. Commissioner Michael Romeo was absent.

Others present during the meeting: Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney; Elizabeth Gilleran, Director of Community Development; Michael Wallick, Transportation Planner, John Jay Sergent and Erika Orellana, Clerk to Boards and Commissions.

Chair Jonas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., six Commissioners present, and with Chair Jonas presiding.

1. **DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

For the record, Ms. Orellana, Clerk to Boards and Commissions, called the roll, with six members present, which constituted a quorum.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On the motion of Commissioner Moses, seconded by Commissioner LeReche and carried by a vote of 6-0 The agenda for August 26, 2019 public hearing meeting was approved. The vote was: Commissioners: Bouchard, LeReche, Moses, Regan and Vice Chair Burke and Chair Jonas voting "Aye." Commissioner Romeo was absent.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Vote on June 10, 2019
Work Session Minutes**

On the motion of Vice Chair Burke, seconded by Commissioner Moses and carried by a vote of 6-0. The minutes for June 10, 2019 work session meeting was approved. The

**August 26, 2019
(public hearing)**

vote was: Commissioners: Bouchard, LeReche, Moses, Regan and Vice Chair Burke and Chair Jonas voting "Aye." Commissioner Romeo was absent.

June 24, 2019
Public Hearing Minutes

On the motion of Commissioner LeReche, seconded by Vice Chair Burke and carried by a vote of 7-0. The minutes for June 24, 2019 public hearing meeting was approved. The vote was: Commissioners: Bouchard, LeReche, Moses, Regan and Vice Chair Burke and Chair Jonas voting "Aye." Commissioner Romeo was absent.

4. **COMMENTS FROM THE STAFF**

Elizabeth Gilleran, Director of Community Development, provided information for the 5-year review of the Comprehensive Plan public meeting, hosted by the Department of Community Development. Ms. Gilleran stated that the meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 25 at 7:00 PM in the Herndon Council Chambers, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon. The meeting will include a presentation, as well as information as to what the 5-year review plan consists of and the staff will be taking comments from the public.

Ms. Gilleran informed the Planning Commission that staff has met with the Economic Advisor Committee, Youth Advisory Commission for the town, and the Herndon portion of the Chamber of Commerce.

5. **COMMENTS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSIONERS**

Chair Jonas stated that the Planning Commission received gifts from the town, recognizing the efforts that have been in place in Herndon for 30 years, which includes; Tree City designation, having the town's forester John Dudzinsky included on staff, and having the Farmer's Market.

6. **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

There were no comments from the audience.

PUBLIC HEARING

7. **Elden Street Sidewalk Improvements (Center to School Street)**, to consider a resolution recommending authorization of an application to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for VDOT – Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funding for federal fiscal years 2021 and 2022 and endorsement of the "Elden Street Sidewalk Improvements" project. This project is intended to improve pedestrian safety, accessibility, and overall walkability along a road segment serving as a vital pedestrian

**August 26, 2019
(public hearing)**

connection between downtown and the south Elden commercial corridor. It involves redesigning and reconstructing the streetscape on the south side of Elden Street between Center Street to the east and near School Street to the west. In accordance with the Commonwealth Transportation Board construction allocation procedures, it is necessary that a request by resolution be received from the local government in order for the Virginia Department of Transportation to consider a new Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside project in the Town of Herndon.

Certificates of Publication were filed from the Editor of the *Fairfax County Times Newspapers*, showing that notices of said public hearing had been duly advertised in the Friday, August 9, 2019 and August 16, 2019 issues.

Chair Jonas stated that the title of this project has changed since advertisement, however, the scope of the project has not changed. The draft Planning Commission resolution under consideration was revised to include the new project title, which is the “Central Elden Walkability Improvements” project.

Chair Jonas opened the public hearing and called on Michael Wallick, Transportation Planner, to provide the staff memo.

Mr. Wallick presented the staff memo dated August 26, 2019, which is on file in the Department of Community Development.

Mr. Wallick informed the Planning Commission that the project is near downtown Herndon, the Herndon Middle School, St. Joseph’s Catholic School, and the South Elden Street commercial shopping district.

Mr. Wallick provided a brief summary of the project:

- **Project Area:** South side of Elden Street, between Center Street and School Street
- **Proposed Improvements:** Wider sidewalk, landscaped verge between curb and sidewalk, new curb ramps, new high visibility crosswalks, new accessible pedestrian signals at intersection with Grace Street
- **Project Purpose:** Enhance pedestrian safety and comfort, improve accessibility and gain ADA compliance, provide more walkable connection between downtown and south Elden Street and between neighborhoods and schools

The staff recommends approval of Central Elden Walkability Improvements project.

**August 26, 2019
(public hearing)**

TOWN OF HERNDON, VIRGINIA

PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION

August 26, 2019

Resolution - Recommending authorization of an application to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for VDOT – Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funding for federal fiscal years 2021 and 2022 and recommending endorsement of the “Central Elden Walkability Improvements Project”

WHEREAS, in 2008 the Town Council adopted the 2030 Comprehensive Plan which guides the town to *facilitate alternative modes of transportation within the town and provide safe streets that are friendly to pedestrians and bicyclists and continue to integrate pedestrian and bicycle facilities with the street and transit network*; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council’s adopted 2035 Vision Statement expresses that *Residents walk, cycle, drive, or use public transit to their jobs, restaurants, and cultural events and Through thoughtful planning, the town has a network of sidewalks, trails, streets and connections to public transportation that provides residents the opportunity for one-car or no-car living*; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Herndon Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) identified the Central Elden Walkability Improvements Project as a top priority within the PBAC recommended draft Town of Herndon Pedestrian Plan; and

WHEREAS, the current conditions of the streetscape within the project area are unsafe, uncomfortable, inadequate, and non ADA-compliant; and

WHEREAS, the project area is within one block of two schools and the sidewalk to be improved is frequently used by school children; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements would enhance pedestrian service levels, provide an important connection between south Elden Street’s commercial corridor and downtown Herndon, and create a safe walking environment for all users.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning Commission for the Town of Herndon that:

**August 26, 2019
(public hearing)**

1. the Planning Commission hereby recommends the Town Council authorize the TA Set-Aside funding application in accordance with the Commonwealth Transportation Board construction allocation procedures; and
2. the Planning Commission hereby recommends the Town Council endorse the Central Elden Walkability Improvements Project.

Commissioner Regan asked if there would be no issues on private properties, right-a-ways or access with the project involved. Mr. Wallick confirmed that there wouldn't be issue because the project is the town right-a-way.

Chair Jonas asked for comments from the audience.

The following provided comments:

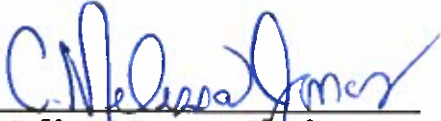
- Katie Betti
- Tim Flanason

Following the public hearing, Vice Chair Burke moved approval of resolution of the Central Elden Walkability Improvements Project. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Bouchard.

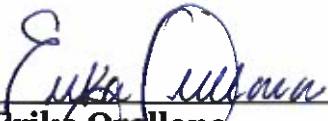
Following brief comments by Chair Jonas, the question was called on the motion, which was carried by a vote of 6-0. The vote was: Commissioners: Bouchard, LeReche, Moses, Regan and Vice Chair Burke and Chair Jonas voting "Aye." Commissioner Romeo was absent.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.



**C. Melissa Jonas, Chair
Planning Commission**



**Brika Orellana
Clerk to Boards and Commissions**

Minutes approved by the Planning Commission: September 23, 2019