

**The Potomac Yard Design Advisory Committee (PYDAC)**

December 9, 2009

6:30 – 7:30 pm

Sister Cities Room 1101

**Committee Members in**

**Attendance:**

Maria Wasowski – Chair

Russell Kopp

Jennifer Taylor

Quynn Nguyen

Sylvia Sibrover

Stephen Koenig

Charlotte Landis

Joe Hart

**Excused Absences:**

Susan Carnell

**City Staff:**

Kristen Mitten, Urban Planner, P&Z

Gwen Wright, Development

Chief, P&Z

Valerie Peterson, Principle

Planner, P&Z

**Applicant Representatives:**

N/A

**Community:**

Cindy Robinson

Mariella Posey

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- I. Introduction of Members
- II. Election of Chair / Chair Term Limits
- III. Courtesy Briefing of North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting began at 6:35 p.m. A quorum for the meeting was established.

## **DISCUSSION**

1. The PYDAC members introduced themselves to the Committee as four new members have joined since the group last convened a year ago on December 10, 2008.
2. Staff generally outlined the roles and responsibilities of the Chairperson and the PYDAC unanimously elected Maria Wasowski to a two-year term as chair. PYDAC agreed that a two-year term length should be established so that no member would feel obligated to serve as "chair for life" once elected. It was also agreed that the chairperson could serve for multiple consecutive terms if willing (i.e. there are no term limits).
3. Staff provided a courtesy briefing to the PYDAC for the North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan which is tentatively docketed for the February Planning Commission hearing. Staff discussed some of the constraints that impacted the design. The background, process, model and status were presented by staff and questions pertaining to ownership and parking were raised.
4. Currently Landbay F (subject area of North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan) is not under the purview of the PYDAC, however Staff stated their preference would be for any Design Guidelines developed for Landbay F to be reviewed by PYDAC. Additionally, Staff believes it may be appropriate for PYDAC to be assigned the responsibility of reviewing projects in North Potomac Yard, using the ultimately-approved guidelines. However, this topic needs more discussion.
5. Staff reminded the group that the current items going through the process are the small area plan and the zoning. Each of the blocks would still need to come for a development special use permit (DSUP) approval and could be reviewed by PYDAC at that time, assuming that PYDAC is assigned this responsibility.
6. Although the PYDAC does not officially review small area plans, they were encouraged, as members of the public, to review and comment on the draft plan and/or the new design guidelines on-line at:  
[www.alexandriava.gov/potomacyardplan](http://www.alexandriava.gov/potomacyardplan).
7. Staff informed PYDAC that the next (and potentially final) draft of the North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan would be released January 22, 2010.
8. Staff informed PYDAC that other projects may be coming forward to the Committee in the near future and PYDAC requested that a meeting be scheduled for early next year in order to review the existing Potomac Yard Design Guidelines. PYDAC believed a review would be helpful for the new members and as a refresher for the returning members given the prolonged inactivity in the Yard.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.