

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the Prince George’s County Planning Board has reviewed Special Permit Application No. SP-160000 requesting a special permit for the adaptive reuse of a building previously occupied by an institutional use under 25,000 square feet in gross floor area for an institutional use (a church), where not otherwise allowed, in accordance with Subtitle 27 of the Prince George’s County Code; and

WHEREAS, after consideration of the evidence presented at the public hearing on January 5, 2017, the Prince George’s County Planning Board finds:

- A. **Location and Field Inspection:** The 1.84-acre parcel, 3705 Longfellow Street, is located between 37th Street and 38th Street, south of Longfellow Street and north of Kennedy Street in the City of Hyattsville, Maryland. There are no exterior improvements proposed to the subject site. Vehicular access to the building site is via a side parking lot fronting Longfellow Street.
- B. **History:** Per Maryland State tax records, the existing building was constructed in 1942. Special Exception SE-3356, for a private educational institution, was approved by the Prince George’s County District Council on October 22, 1982 for the Concordia Lutheran School.
- C. **Master Plan Recommendation:** This property is located in the Existing Communities policy area of the Prince George’s County Growth Policy Map in the *Plan Prince George’s 2035 Approved General Plan*. The 2004 *Gateway Arts District Approved Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment* (Gateway Arts District Sector Plan and SMA) retains this property in the One-Family Detached Residential (R-55) Zone. The subject site is located within the Traditional Residential Neighborhood (TRN) Character Area in the Gateway Arts District per the sector plan.
- D. **Request:** The applicant is proposing an adaptive reuse of building with an institutional use. The existing school will be converted to a church with 136 seats, in a building under 25,000 square feet in gross floor area (GFA) in the TRN Character Area in the Gateway Arts District.
- E. **Neighborhood and Surrounding Uses:** The site is surrounded by the following uses within a Development District Overlay (D-D-O) Zone:
  - North—** Across Longfellow Road are residential properties zoned R-55.
  - South—** Residential properties zoned R-55.
  - West—** Across 37th Street are residential properties zoned R-55.
  - East—** Across 38th Street are residential properties zoned R-55.

This property does not contain nor is it in close proximity to a historic property. Though it is located in the City of Hyattsville, the site is not in the National Historic District.

F. **Special Permit Findings:** Section 27-239.02(C) of the Zoning Ordinance states:

**The Planning Board may grant a special permit other zones, as provided in the use tables, if it finds:**

- (i) **The site plan generally conforms with design guidelines in an approved Master Plan or other applicable plan; and**
- (ii) **The site plan shows that the proposed use will not be incompatible with adjacent properties because of building or site design.**

The Gateway Arts District Sector Plan and SMA sets forth guidelines for all development in the TRN Character Area. The design standards replace requirements that are set forth in the Zoning Ordinance and the 2010 *Prince George's County Landscape Manual* (Landscape Manual). These standards set requirements for site, building, and public space design, including build-to lines, fencing, buffers, landscaping, parking, streetscape, building height, massing and openings, signage, lighting, stormwater management, parks, and plazas. Development that increases existing GFA by 15 percent or 7,500 square feet, whichever is smaller, shall subject the site to full review for compliance with the design standards. Lesser changes to the site, and additions to single-family residential dwellings, shall not subject the entire site to review for compliance, only the portion impacted by the improvement.

The applicant is not proposing new GFA in this instance, nor is the applicant making substantial renovations to the interior and exterior of the building. The applicant is seeking approval for a change in use from a school institutional use to a church institutional use, which is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. The applied for use, a church, does conform to the recommendation of the sector plan, which reinforces “community oriented, quiet, low-traffic and child-safe uses” in the TRN.

G. **Parking Requirements:** The site is subject to the parking standards contained in the Zoning Ordinance. The parking schedule provided indicates a total of 34 parking spaces are provided. There is one parking space for every four seats and two handicap parking spaces provided per the Zoning Ordinance regulations. The proposed church will have 136 seats.

H. **Signage:** Sign area is controlled by the regulations of Sections 27-613(c) and 27-107.1 of the Zoning Ordinance. Per Sections 27-613(c) and 27-107.1 of the Zoning Ordinance, the applicant's proposed sign appears to be well within the maximum allowed sign size (104 square feet) permitted for building-mounted signage. The proposed sign also conforms to the definition of signage and on-site signage contained in Section 27-107.1(210) and (212) of the Zoning Ordinance. Therefore, it may be said that the application conforms to this development district standard.

**I. Further Planning Board Findings and Comments from Other Entities:**

1. **Permit Review**—The building and accessory building dimensions shall be noted on the site plan. A sign package was received from the applicant which shows signage in accordance with the sign design guidelines.
2. **Transportation Planning**—There are no master plan roadways in the immediate vicinity of the site. The applicant states that services will be held on Sundays between 7 AM and 11:30 AM. Based on the *Institute of Traffic Engineer's Trip Generation Manual (9th Edition)* during the Sunday peak-hour traffic, a church with 136 seats would generate 83 trips (42 in, 41 out). Sunday school class will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. with a maximum of 30 students. No services or classes will be held during the week. Only the priest and a few employees are expected to access the site during weekday hours.

Access to the building's parking lot will be from Longfellow Street, which is shown with 50 feet of right-of-way. The parking lot needs to be restriped for parking spaces. This is noted on the site plan. Sidewalks exist on Longfellow Street and 38th Street surrounding the site. The reuse of the site will have minimal impacts on surrounding roadways and intersections and does not oppose the special permit.

3. **Historic Preservation**—A search of current and historic photographs, topographic and historic maps, and locations of currently known archeological sites indicates the probability of archeological sites within the subject property is low. A Phase I archeological survey is not recommended on the subject property. This proposal will not impact any historic sites, historic resources or known archeological sites.
4. **Urban Design**—The subject application does not include any increase in GFA or involve any exterior improvements. Therefore, the application is exempt for all D-D-O Zone standards and DSP review.

The application is not subject to the requirements of the Landscape Manual because the Gateway Arts District Development Plan states "Development District Standards replace all those contained in the Zoning Ordinance and the Landscape Manual except those exclusively noted." The tree canopy requirements are not triggered in accordance with Section 25-128(b) of the Prince George's County Code.

5. **Community Planning**—The proposed use is allowed by special permit. Because there is no gross square footage or exterior improvements being proposed by the applicant for the site, they are not required to conform to the development district standards in the Gateway Arts District Sector Plan.

6. **Environmental Planning**—The site has an approved natural resources inventory equivalency letter and an approved woodland conservation exemption letter. There are no regulated environmental features on the property and no woodland exists on the property. There are no other environmental issues.
7. **Prince George’s County Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE)**—DPIE did not return comment on the subject application. The site does not front any County-maintained roadway.
8. **City of Hyattsville**—The City of Hyattsville Council voted unanimously in support of the special permit application on Monday, November 21, 2016.
9. **Other Municipalities**—No other municipalities have returned comment on the subject application.

#### CONCLUSION

The Planning Board may grant a special permit if it finds that the site plan is in conformance with the approved development plan and its guidelines and specific criteria for the specific use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Subtitle 27 of the Prince George’s County Code, the Prince George’s County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission adopted the findings contained herein and APPROVED the above-noted application, subject to the following condition:

1. Prior to certification, the site plan shall be revised to include the building dimensions of the church and the accessory building on the site plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appeal of the Planning Board’s action must be filed with the Circuit Court for Prince George’s County, Maryland within thirty (30) days of the final notice of the Planning Board’s decision.

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PGCPB No. 17-02  
File No. SP-160000  
Page 5

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the action taken by the Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission on the motion of Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Geraldo, with Commissioners Washington, Geraldo, Bailey, Doerner, and Hewlett voting in favor of the motion at its regular meeting held on Thursday, January 5, 2017, in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Adopted by the Prince George's County Planning Board this 26th day of January 2017.

Patricia Colihan Barney  
Executive Director

By Jessica Jones  
Planning Board Administrator

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