

## Council votes for updated Odenton Master Plan

By Amanda Yeager

[ayeager@capgaznews.com](mailto:ayeager@capgaznews.com)

After nearly two years of review, an update to a master plan for the Odenton Town Center will be adopted.

Anne Arundel County Council members voted 6 to 1 Monday in favor of the new master plan. Councilman Michael Peroutka, R-Millersville, voted against the measure.

The plan, last updated in 2009, lays out a set of development guidelines for the fast-growing west county community. Its nearly 180 pages envision green space, bike- and pedestrian-friendly pathways, a historic district and mixed-use projects built on 1,200 acres next to the Odenton MARC station.

The version passed Monday includes almost two dozen amendments submitted by county administration and Councilman Andrew Pruski, D-Gambrills, whose district includes the Odenton Town Center.

Developers who submitted plans prior to the 2016 edition will be grandfathered in, and can choose to follow either the 2009 or the 2016 version of the master plan, according to Acting County Auditor Jodee Dickinson. Five projects currently in the pipeline — including the Cannery Crossing and Meade Center projects — will have this option.

But before the vote, two residents told the council that they were unwilling participants in the plan.

Sara Shoemaker and Laura Scalise said they had expressed their concerns in multiple public meetings and directly to county officials, but hadn't received a satisfactory response about how they could petition for their properties to be removed from the update.

“The 2016 plan provides no clear benefits to me or my property,” Shoemaker said.

Scalise called the 2016 plan “an exercise in utter futility.”

“We played the game by the rules,” she said. “I'm done. I want out of Town Center.”

Planning and zoning officials said they had heard community members' concerns, but drew the area's historic district, where Scalise and Shoemaker's homes are located, with an eye to include all of the properties that contribute to its character.

“My view, in terms of the historic district, is you still have to have some clear delineation in order for the district to ring with some integrity,” said Office of Planning and Zoning Director Larry Tom.

Planners said they tried to address specific concerns that the plan could dilute the Odenton historic district's character by limiting properties in the center of the district to single-family home use and clarifying design standards.

“I met with various stakeholders and anyone who called me, I met with them,” Pruski said. “Not everyone agrees on everything, (but) we try to make the best decisions possible.”

- See more at:

[http://digitaledition.capitalgazette.com/tribune/article\\_popover.aspx?guid=65ce7fea-6d05-4687-b505-f1198074dbd8&t=1461063053483#sthash.4sR7PzOb.dpuf](http://digitaledition.capitalgazette.com/tribune/article_popover.aspx?guid=65ce7fea-6d05-4687-b505-f1198074dbd8&t=1461063053483#sthash.4sR7PzOb.dpuf)