



# WCD

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vote of dissent, to grant a six month extension on the resolution. Commissioner Debra Davis (D) was absent from the meeting.

Steve Kaii-Zeigler, the director of the county's Department of Planning and Growth Management, said planning staff would be able to "limit" certain types of development applications that could be submitted under the resolution. The extension approved on Tuesday would extend that resolution for six months, he said.

According to the original resolution, no county officials may process or approve new or pending preliminary subdivision plans, any new or pending site development plans, any new development services permit applications or any new or pending applications for piecemeal rezoning within the boundaries of the area being proposed for the Watershed Conservation District.

That resolution was approved in September, Kaii-Zeigler said. Since then, he said, there has been a lot of progress that has been made.

"Since that time, the staff working with the county attorney's office and the planning commission has developed a series of text amendments and a mapping component that would go with that," Kaii-Zeigler said.

There have been two public hearings on the watershed conservation district since, he said, and many pieces of public input given to the

county outside of any hearings.

The planning commission also had a work session scheduled on the district on Monday evening, but the meeting was delayed another two weeks due to the pending storm.

"We're anticipating the planning commission to be able to complete its work and make its recommendation to you within the next six weeks or so," Kaii-Zeigler said.

The resolution's extension only lasts for another six months, Kaii-Zeigler said, and the county is planning on the process being completed by then. That would give the county commissioners another "four to four and a half months," to have the regulations for the district completed.

County Attorney Rhonda Weaver said it is her recommendation to have the regulations for the district completed within the next six months. Legally, there could be another extension, she said, but stretching the process out for more than a year may not bode well for the county or its citizens.

"We don't want the transition in place for any longer than a year," she said.

Commissioners' President Peter Murphy (D), who, for clarification, asked if there could be another extension after the one the commissioners approved on Tuesday. But ultimately, he said, that is the goal for the commissioners as well.

"I just wanted to know for sure what we were working with," he said. "I think that's the goal of the board as well."

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# LIBRARY

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Salazar said.

Toni Garvey from Providence Associates, a library consulting firm based in Arizona, led the town hall at each location. She specializes in library master planning, collection analysis, service plan development, facilities master planning and feasibility studies.

Garvey asked for residents' expectations from their local library in areas such as new technologies, construction and learning how to use personal devices.

"One of the roles of a library is to be able to provide services or equipment that individually we probably won't have because it's not feasible or we can't afford it. It doesn't mean the library needs to have everything but if there are things specifically that the public is looking for then what better place than a library, where everyone can have access to it," Garvey said.

Claudia Bellony-Atanga, chair of the CCPL board of trustees, suggested that the local libraries include technology area with maker space.

"Different libraries have virtual reality areas that you can go in and maker spaces where you can make something or try something new. Also an area for businesses to come and share their products and ideas in small business areas," Bellony-Atanga said.

Many of the local residents suggested a cafe, outdoor space and more comfortable chairs at the local libraries. Others



STAFF PHOTO BY TIFFANY WATSON

Local Charles County residents attend a Charles County Public Library town hall at Waldorf West to give their feedback about what a 21st century library system should be.

suggested having more of an express library to make checking out and returning books easier.

"I'd rather the library have enough computers with internet for kids to get on than to have 3D printers and 3D televisions," said Tiffany Sharpe, a Waldorf resident.

Bryans Road resident Kimberly Darling agreed.

"I think lots of work space and room to plug-in would be great for the libraries," Darling said. "It's really helpful that there are experts on the library staff that can help us use our stuff but I don't think [we need] any additional cutting edge technology."

Waldorf resident James Brown said he would like to see a cafe or coffee area at the local library for those who need to work off site at the library during the week. He also suggested that the library allow military personnel to use a "common access card" in order to check their email.

"Cutting edge as far as knowledge is OK as long as it's not to the detriment

to the population that it serves ... Books aren't going to keep the library relevant — making it a spot for people to come to is what's going to keep the library relevant," Darling said.

Waldorf resident Felix Gilbert suggested a class about protecting kids online as a workshop.

"I always expect the library to be cutting edge and to be pushing those boundaries but more specifically the library being on top of its game in regards to filtering because obviously with new technology comes inappropriate material and I expect the library to be the most safest place," Gilbert said.

Gilbert also suggested adding on conference room space and having businesses grow at the library as a co-working space.

"In most cases I'm also seeing that the library is decreasing space of the collection but increasing the people space for people to interact, build a program and study. Technology is a really challenging area for li-

braries," Garvey said.

Residents at the Waldorf West town hall believed the most important things are inside and outside space, couch areas, a coffee spot, a water fountain, more nature, a fireplace and a play area for kids. They also compared the current facilities of the local libraries and concluded that the amount of parking and space at the La Plata Library Branch and Potomac Library branch is very limited.

Salazar said the information received from the town halls will help the library in planning and prioritizing its current services, allocating resources and identifying new library services and programs. The public input will also help the library prepare for the possibility of building new branches and making building improvements at current locations, including the construction of a new La Plata branch.

For more information, call Salazar at 301-934-9001, ext. 120, or email [jsalazar@ccplonline.org](mailto:jsalazar@ccplonline.org).

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