Upper Northwest District Plan  Third Public Meeting Guide

Welcome. Tonight’s meeting is hosted by the Philadelphia City Planning Commission (PCPC), part of the Philadelphia city government.

In 2011, PCPC worked with residents, organizations, and other city departments to create big goals for the future of Philadelphia in a plan called Philadelphia2035: The Citywide Vision.

Tonight’s meeting is part of the second phase of Philadelphia2035: applying those broad goals to the neighborhoods of the Upper Northwest in a more detailed plan called a District Plan. The Upper Northwest district includes the major neighborhoods of Germantown, Mount Airy, and Chestnut Hill.

PCPC used input from earlier public meetings in January and March to create the recommendations shown on the display boards at tonight’s public meeting. We welcome your feedback on our work. Your input will be incorporated into the draft of the plan, which we will be present at the City Planning Commission meeting on July 17th. Then we will post the draft of the plan our website. From July 17th through September 14th we will take comments from the public on the draft plan and make changes as appropriate. The final version of the plan will be presented for adoption at the September 18th City Planning Commission meeting.

Once the plan is adopted, City agencies, such as the Streets Department and the Department of Parks & Recreation use the plan to guide their projects. Community groups, non-profit organizations and institutions also work with us to put the plan into action.

The recommendations of the Upper Northwest District Plan are organized into three forward-looking themes: **THRIVE, CONNECT, and RENEW.**

**THRIVE:** neighborhoods, jobs, and land management

**CONNECT:** safe streets, public transportation, traffic, and utilities

**RENEW:** parks, environmental resources, historic preservation, and public space

The plan also includes **FOCUS AREAS** and recommendations for changes to **ZONING.**

**FOCUS AREAS** are areas that could benefit the entire district, or even the entire city, if they are invested in by the City and other partners. Recommendations in the plan for focus areas are more detailed. They are often where PCPC begins putting the plan into action.

**ZONING** is the primary tool to regulate the size and permitted uses of new buildings. The plan recommends two kinds of zoning changes. “Corrective zoning” makes the zoning match what properties are being used for. “Zoning to advance the plan” promotes desired uses and development. These zoning recommendations go through additional public engagement after the plan is complete. All zoning changes must be passed by City Council.

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