

Appointed by Wicomico County Council: Betty K. Gardner; Jim Jackson; Virginia Sillers.

Appointed by Worcester County Board of County Commissioners: David Bryant; Shirley W. Pilchard.

U.S. 13 North Tourism Center
Route 2, Box 361A (410) 957-2484
Pocomoke City, MD 21851 (410) 632-2377

The Maryland Lower Eastern Shore Tourism Center Advisory Committee was created in 1984 (Chapter 716, Acts of 1984). The Committee advises the Department of Business and Economic Development on the development and operations of the Maryland Lower Eastern Shore Tourism Center. Located on U.S. 13 North, the Center opened in December 1985. It was dedicated to the memory of Delegate Mark O. Pilchard on October 24, 1989.

The Committee consists of nine members. The Somerset County and Worcester County Boards of County Commissioners and the Wicomico County Council each appoint three members from their respective counties. Members serve five-year terms (Code 1957, Art. 83A, sec. 4-201).

MARYLAND—NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK & PLANNING COMMISSION

Chair: Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Prince George's County, 1997

Vice-Chair: William H. Hussmann, Montgomery County, 1997

Montgomery County Planning Board: Ruthann Aron, 1996; Arthur Holmes, Jr., 1998; Patricia S. Baptiste, 1999; Davis M. Richardson, 1999.

Prince George's County Planning Board: James M. Brown, 1996; Zola E. Boone, 1998; Roy I. Dabney, Jr., 1999; Regina J. McNeill, 1999.

Ex officio: Fern V. Piret, Prince George's County Planning Director; Rodney H. Irwin, Montgomery County Park & Planning Director; Mary H. Godfrey, Prince George's County Parks & Recreation Director.

Trudye Morgan Johnson, *Executive Director*

6611 Kenilworth Ave., Suite 402
Riverdale, MD 20737 (301) 454-1740

Montgomery Regional Office
8787 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301) 495-4605

County Administration Building
Prince George's County
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 (301) 952-3560

Certified Annual Financial Report to be made available for distribution to public.

Formed in 1927, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission has jurisdiction over parks and planning in Montgomery and Prince George's counties (Chapter 448, Acts of 1927). This authority covers all of the two counties except for certain municipalities. Since 1970, the Commission also has operated the Prince George's County recreation program, funded by a separate county-wide recreation tax. In addition, the Commission provides services and educational programs relating to conservation and nature, local history, and the arts, and offers recreation classes.

To delineate the Commission's areas of authority, two districts were created: one for parks, and a second for planning and zoning.

Parks. Within the Maryland-Washington Metropolitan District, the Commission is empowered to acquire, develop, maintain, and operate parks systems. In all areas except Laurel, the Commission may spend public funds to acquire park land. Subject to county government approval, it also may sell general obligation bonds to fund park acquisition and development. All other expenses, including debt service, are paid from a park tax levied within the District.

Planning and Zoning. Taking into account all factors of urban, suburban, rural and regional planning, the Commission prepares and administers a General Plan for the physical development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District. All of Prince George's County (except Laurel) and all of Montgomery County (except Rockville, Gaithersburg, and several small municipalities) are included in the district. For the portion of the District within their county, each planning board makes zoning recommendations to its county council. To enact zoning ordinances and change the zoning map, the planning boards have exclusive responsibility for subdivision approval, location and grades of streets, location of public buildings and utilities, and street naming and house numbering. Administration and operating expenses of the Commission are financed by property taxes levied by the two counties.

The Commission's ten members include five residents of Montgomery County and five of Prince George's who serve four-year terms. The five members from each county make up the county planning board. In Montgomery County, members are appointed by the County Council and confirmed by the County Executive. In Prince George's County, the County Executive appoints all five members subject to County Council confirmation. The appointing authority names the planning board chair. The Commission chair alternates each year between the two planning board chairs. The alternate becomes vice-chair.