City of Bowie
Memorandum

Thursday, January 26, 2023
Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM,
City Manager

STATUS REPORT

1. Planning Director Level Variance Approvals

Under Council's authorization in Resolution R-86-19, the Planning Department is expected to periodically report the number of zoning variance cases reviewed. The last update was provided in May, 2021. Since that time, there have been 12 administrative, Planning Director-level approvals of variances in the City. Homeowners who are planning to make customary home improvements often find out that their plans for these minor improvements run afoul of the County's zoning regulations. The Planning Director approval process saves time for residents and avoids having to convene the Bowie Advisory Planning Board for public hearings, where the applications would otherwise be approved. Attached for the Council's information is a list of all cases decided at the Planning Director level since May, 2021. Please contact Planning Director Joe Meinert if you have questions.

2. Planning Board Results – Raising Cane's Detailed Site Plan

At today's County Planning Board meeting, the Planning Board voted unanimously to approve the Detailed Site Plan for the Raising Cane's restaurant proposed at the intersection of US 301/Heritage Boulevard, at the location of the vacant, former Chili's restaurant. DSP-98061-05 includes a proposed 3,331 square foot Raising Cane's restaurant, with drive-through service. City Council conducted a public hearing on January 3rd and recommended approval. The motion to approve the staff recommendation of approval with conditions was made by Commissioner Washington and seconded by Commissioner Doerner. The Planning Board also voted their unanimous re-approval of the Detailed Site Plan for The Mansions at Melford.

3. Branding Update

Over the last few months, staff has worked with our branding consultant to develop a "Bowie story" or narrative that can be used in marketing materials, on the website, and other places to consistently describe Bowie. It highlights the themes that emerged from research, several interviews with stakeholders, and the many responses we received to our two branding surveys – that Bowie is a family-centered, diverse and inclusive community, with great amenities and services, where people and businesses can thrive.

Staff has also worked with the consultants to refine the new visual designs that were first presented to Council in the fall. You may recall that the inspiration for the designs came from Bowie being strategically located at the center of the

Washington, DC, Baltimore, and Annapolis regions. Based on feedback received, the colors and designs have been toned down a bit but are still unique, vibrant, and attention-grabbing.

The Bowie story is attached to this document. It is also on our website in a new branding section that describes the brand development process and presents the new logo designs and use examples. The direct link is www.cityofbowie.org/newBowiebrand.

Staff will be sharing the information and the web link with the community in a variety of ways and will invite them to offer feedback on what they see.

PLANNING DIRECTOR LEVEL ZONING VARIANCE APPROVALS SINCE MAY 13, 2021

January 26, 2023

Application # (Approval)	Applicant	Address	Request
PDVAR-4-21 (5/21/21)	Ologere	8911 Myrtle Avenue	Construction of a 15' x 17' deck at the rear of the house, which will be located approximately one foot from the side lot line (variance of seven feet)
PDVAR-5-21 (5/28/21)	Uy	4217 Crosswick Turn	116 square foot expansion of the existing paved driveway in front of the dwelling
PDVAR-6-21 (5/28/21)	Barnachea	15512 Powell Lane	259 square foot (approximately 7' x 37') expansion of the existing paved driveway in front of the dwelling
PDVAR-7-21 (5/28/21)	Palmer	2805 Barberry Lane	Construction of a 221 square foot (17' x 13') roof structure over the concrete patio located at the rear of the existing dwelling (variance of 327 square feet, or approximately 3% additional lot coverage)
PDVAR-8-21 (6/10/21)	Brown	12517 Buckingham Drive	Construction of a 192 square foot (12' x 16') shed in the side yard, 44 feet from front lot line (variance of 16 feet from the 60 foot setback)
PDVAR-9-21 (6/10/21)	MJ&S Enterprises	15206 Old Chapel Road	Construction of a 16' x 28' irregular shaped sunroom addition on the rear of dwelling (variance of 1,522 square feet, or 4.7%)
PDVAR-10-21 (6/10/21)	Young	12715 Hoven Lane	Validate (after the fact) construction of a 549 square foot driveway addition (variance of 404.44 square feet, or approximately 4.4%)
PDVAR-11-21 (7/6/21)	Bauerlein	12725 Kembridge Drive	220 square foot expansion of the existing paved driveway in front of the dwelling
PDVAR-12-21 (8/5/21)	Butler	15415 Jodphur Drive	34.36 square feet above the maximum permitted lot coverage (2,890 square feet), resulting in a total lot coverage of 2,924.36 square feet (25.3%)
PDVAR-13-21 (n/a)	Wilson	12327 Melody Turn	Case DENIED by Bowie Advisory Planning Board on 11/9/21
PDVAR-14-21 (11/29/21)	Kearney	1118 Port Echo Lane	Construction of a 23'-9" x 17'-6" addition onto the rear of the house, resulting in a total lot coverage of 3,920.38 square feet (33.2%)
PDVAR-1-22 (12/22/21)	Aguirre	2905 Nemeth Lane	119 square foot (approximately 3.5' x 34') expansion of the existing paved driveway in front of the dwelling
PDVAR-2-22 (1/5/22)	Love	12109 Faith Lane	Construction of a 415 square foot, attached carport within the minimum required eight-foot side yard setback, two feet from the side lot line

Our Story

Growing well comes naturally here…

For business, this is the axis point linking DC, Baltimore and Annapolis. Our suburban haven is home base for professionals and independent enterprises attracted by Bowie's well-educated, affluent workforce. Having Bowie State University on our doorstep, combined with the city's Business Innovation Center (a renowned accelerator for companies and contractors), and our business-savvy development programs all fuel a dynamic, entrepreneurial environment for growth.

Families of all types – multi-generational to newly hatched – grow deep roots here. The variety of housing options, public and private schools, quality retail, health facilities, greenspaces and exceptional recreation are all obvious attractors. But what truly sets Bowie apart is how it's built by, and for, neighbors. Inclusivity is the lifeblood of the Bowie spirit that welcomes everyone to our diverse neighborhoods and communities that, together, embrace 70+ religious and spiritual centers and numerous international groups.

Healthy tomorrows – for people and business – start with meaningful commitments to growing well. You see it in our investments in programs for youth and older residents, including our nationally accredited Seniors Center. It's evident in Bowie's sustainability initiatives: our city-owned solar farm; electric fleet; electric vehicle charging stations; and a host of other initiatives to keep our community resilient and green. Bowie's reputation as one of Maryland's safest cities is rooted in our highly successful community-based policing.

We're a community of players, in every sense. It's easy to optimize work/life balance with the range of parks, trails and recreation options steps away. Bowie tops Maryland rankings in sports fields per capita! There's plenty of action on tap with Bowie Baysox AA baseball and the new Liberty Sports Park. Festivals and heritage events bring us together throughout the year to celebrate the wealth of our cultural traditions.

Find your place among a dynamic mix of business and community neighbors… ideally located at a regional axis point… that's working continuously to ensure everyone – kids to seniors, residents to enterprises – has the supports they need to grow healthy roots here for more resilient tomorrows.

Bowie, Maryland