

Carter Willson and Ali Shapiro of Renewing Montgomery (RM) met with members of the Oakmont Community Association on Tuesday, July 10th.

Topics discussed in the meeting included:

- Ways to access information on County codes, and how the RM website can help with improve access. RM advised the RM website has several links to code information, and that RM values feedback regarding additional code items or other issues where a link would be helpful to the viewer.
- The County website was described as being very difficult to navigate; it was suggested that RM seek to clarify or provide a condensed version of specific "hotspot" issues to help viewers.
- Homeowners advised they will look at the RM website and provide feedback.
- Attendees noted frustrations with builders in the past over noise issues, disruption, and lack of consideration for neighbors/the neighborhood. Lack of County responsiveness exacerbated these frustrations and community members found the County system difficult to navigate.
- Community rights and property rights were discussed; attendees, all of whom are long-term residents living in older homes, indicated they place a high value on community rights.
- Several people advised they would be fine with a lower property value in return for community rights and protection of open space.
- A survey of neighbors conducted by the Association indicated they felt new construction had a negative impact on the neighborhood. RM will follow up to see if a copy of the survey and its results can be obtained.
- Trees are an important issue; attendees were pleased with the wording of the RM presentation, in particular the specific language on ways builders can save trees.
- The issue of the 2 and 1/2 story rule was discussed. There was some confusion on the rule, particularly when looking at houses built under the old height code vs. the new code. There was specific discussion of the basement/cellar distinction and finished attic levels.
- The Oakmont CA (since Oakmont is a municipality) is currently writing a zoning ordinance for its community. The current draft requires that

plans be submitted 30 days before County submission. After further discussion, it was discovered that the board was not aware that a permitting process with the County can take weeks, if not months, and that there is a 30 day time to appeal the permit after that is issued. This information will be taken into consideration with the next draft of their proposed zoning rules.