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Five vie for Planning chairmanship

Interviews are next month

by Margie Hyslop | Staff Writer

The Montgomery County Council has selected five candidates for Planning Board chairman, and the council is expected to interview them on May 12.

The candidates are Joseph L. Alfandre, whom the council appointed to the board in June 2008; Francoise M. Carrier, director of the county's Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings; Kensington Mayor Peter C. Fosselman; Tedi S. Osias, lobbyist for the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County; and former Planning Board Vice Chairman John M. Robinson.

Alfandre, of Potomac, developed Kentlands, a nationally renowned "New Urbanist" community in Gaithersburg. He has a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Utah. He is in his second year of a four-year term on the Planning Board. Carrier, of Rockville, has a law degree from Stanford University, has run the zoning and administrative hearings office since 2001, and previously practiced regulatory and land-use law.

Fosselman, of Kensington, has a bachelor's degree in urban planning from Virginia Tech and is a principal at Rodgers Consulting, a Germantown-based land-use consulting firm. During his career at Rodgers, he was project manager for Kentlands. He owns a restaurant-tavern and a fitness center in Kensington and has worked as city zoning inspector for Gaithersburg.

Osias, of Chevy Chase, holds a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University and was chief of staff to former Montgomery County Councilman Howard Denis. She served more than 11 years as executive secretary to the county's Board of Appeals.

Robinson, who lives in Kensington, has a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and is a staff attorney for rates and finance at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, where he has worked since 1989. He also has practiced real estate, finance, employment and railway law. He served on the county Planning Board from 2001 through 2009.

Sixteen people applied for the Planning Board chairman post to succeed Royce Hanson, whose term expires in June.

The Planning and Parks departments, over which the chairman and board preside, face deep budget cuts and declining fee revenue as development in the largely built-out county has struggled in the economic recession.