



The Liriodendron Foundation, Inc.

September 30, 2020

Town of Bel Air Planning Commission
705 E. Churchville Road
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Dear Planning Commission members:

As you know, The Liriodendron Foundation operates the Liriodendron Mansion located at 502 W. Gordon Street in Bel Air in partnership with Harford County Government who owns Heavenly Waters Park where the Mansion is located. Although not located within the Bel Air Town Limits, the Mansion and the many public and private events which occur there are part of the vibrant Town of Bel Air community.

To fulfill its Mission, the Liriodendron Foundation, Inc. strives to protect and maintain the Liriodendron Mansion and to honor the legacy of Dr. Howard Atwood Kelly and the Kelly family. Its Vision is to be fiscally sound through a robust rental program for weddings, private parties and business events, through grants from public and private entities and through fundraising events and donations from individuals and businesses. Its Vision also includes the promotion of the Mansion and grounds as a community asset and the focus of educational programs and activities available for little or no cost to the public.

The annexation and future development of the 1.5-acre vacant lot now owned by Liriod LLC concerns the Foundation Board of Directors. We recognize that the annexation of the lot is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan of the Town of Bel Air and the Harford County Master Plan. The future subdivision of the site should be reviewed in the context of the Liriodendron campus and the impact on the Historic Mansion. We concur with the County recommendations that the development of the site be limited to single family lots accessing via Catherine Street. No access from the Gordon Street private drive should be permitted. During review and approval of the subdivision, the overall "green space concepts" of the Liriodendron campus should be preserved. The scale and siting of the future residences should be reviewed as an extension of the existing neighborhood. Solid fencing and landscaping with larger trees and shrubs will be needed to reduce impact on the viewshed from the Mansion and a detailed buffering plan should be part of the subdivision review process. We recommend that these conditions be included in the Planning Commission's recommendation to the Town Commissioners.

We look forward to being able to continue to operate the Liriodendron Mansion as a community asset and a special place to celebrate events.

Sincerely yours,

Arden Case McClune

President, The Liriodendron Foundation, Inc.

c. Erin Schafer, Chief, Facilities and Operation, Harford County Government
Kevin Small, Planning Director, Town of Bel Air
Liriodendron Board of Directors

The Liriodendron Foundation, Inc. 502 W Gordon Street, Bel Air, Maryland 21014

410-879-4424 | www.Liriodendron.com | info@liriodendron.com