



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

6611 Kenilworth Avenue • Riverdale, Maryland 20737

Commission Meeting  
Open Session Minutes  
April 17, 2024

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission met in hybrid, in-person/videoconference, with the Chair initiating the meeting at the Prince George's Parks and Recreation Administration Building Auditorium in Riverdale, Maryland and broadcast by the Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County.

PRESENT

Prince George's County Commissioners

Peter A. Shapiro, Chair  
Dorothy Bailey  
William Doerner  
Manuel Geraldo  
A. Shuanise Washington

Montgomery County Commissioners

Artie Harris, Vice Chair  
Shawn Bartley  
James Hedrick  
Josh Linden

NOT PRESENT

Mitra Pedoeem

Chair Shapiro called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

ITEM 1 APPROVAL OF COMMISSION AGENDA

Chair Shapiro added a discussion item with Fairmount Heights Councilmember Downing  
ACTION: See item 2

ITEM 2 APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Open Session – 3/20/24  
Motion by Commissioner Geraldo to adopt the 4/17/24 Agenda and  
3/20/24 Open Session Minutes  
Seconded by Hedrick

8 approved the 4/17/24 agenda  
8 approved the 3/20/24 minutes  
Pedoeem absent  
Bartlett did not vote

ITEM 3 GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Stress Awareness Month
- b) Alcohol Awareness Month
- c) Arab American Heritage Month
- d) Upcoming National Prevention Week (Mental and/or Substance Use Disorders) May 12-18
- e) Financial Disclosure Statements due April 30
- f) Reminder June Commission meeting will be Wednesday June 12 (regular schedule falls on Juneteenth M-NCPPC Holiday)

ITEM 4

ACTION/PRESENTATION ITEMS

(added item) Discussion with Fairmount Heights Councilmember Sherri Downing on Fairmount Heights Playground, Kolb St. and 56th Ave. in Fairmount Heights Maryland (Downing/Ewing/Punase)

Fairmount Heights Councilmember Downing relayed an issue residents were having with the Fairmount Heights Playground regarding animal control. A fox den is in an M-NCPPC park, and the Councilmember asked for the M-NCPPC's help in controlling the wildlife there.

Chair Shapiro agreed wildlife has been an issue in the agency's parks, and our team will address the concern. Department of Parks and Recreation Park Development Division Chief Sonia Ewing thanked Councilmember Downing and said her team is working on the issue, including having Park Ranger staff periodically check on the site. She and her staff will provide Councilmember Downing with updates.

- a) Resolution 24-08 Easement of M-NCPPC property to Peterson LLC at Potomac Waterfront Park in Oxon Hill (Sun)

No discussion

Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to adopt Resolution 24-08  
Second by Commissioner Bailey  
9 in favor

- b) Amendments to Practice 1-30 Organization and Functions of the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer and Department of Finance (Harvin/Beckham)

Corporate Policy and Management Operations Director Harvin sought Commissioners' support on the practice amendments. This item was reviewed by both the Finance Department and the Legal Department. Policy Manager Beckham summarized the amendments, as included in the packet.

Motion of Commissioner Hedrick to adopt the amendments  
Second by Vice-Chair Harris  
9 in favor

- c) Amendments to Practice 2-24 Code of Ethics (Harvin/Beckham)

Corporate Policy and Management Operations Director Harvin stated the changes being presented incorporate comments from the State Ethics Commission. Mr. Beckham reviewed the changes as included in the packet.

Commissioner Bartley asked for the State's foundation or basis for the changes. General Counsel Borden said the M-NCPPC is required to have a code that is equal to, or more restrictive as, the state's and is required to send the policy for review to the State Ethics Board. She said from the 33-page omnibus policy, the state had only three small changes. She agreed to speak with Commissioner Bartley and the State Ethics Officer to discuss the issues with the state citing the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) and the Maryland Municipal League (MML) in their changes to the M-NCPPC's policy.

Commissioners noted that MACo and MML were not named in the quasi-governmental entities section, but only the Gifts section. Commissioner Doerner added if MACo and MML were only listed as examples in the state's memo, he would sooner have the specific references removed in the policy. General Counsel Borden and Deputy General Counsel Aniton said they would follow up and clarify with the state if it is critical to specifically name MACo and MML and would report back to Commissioners.

Motion of Vice-Chair Harris to adopt the amendments, giving staff the authority to make appropriate changes to language regarding the specific entities, depending upon follow-up with the State Ethics Commission.

Second by Commissioner Washington

7 in favor

2 opposed (Doerner and Bartley)

d) CIO's Quarterly Report/Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Update (Chilet)

CIO Chilet provided Commissioners with a briefing on the ERP/Project Mosaic update, summarizing the last update, and sharing the progress on the project since January indicating the project is still on its scheduled timeline with a target date of early August 2024.

CIO Chilet will share his presentation slides with Mr. Adams to forward to Commissioners and senior staff.

Vice Chair Harris thanked the CIO and the 120+ staff who worked on the key stakeholders strategic alignment meetings.

ITEM 5

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

a) Late Evaluation Report, March 2024 (For Information Only)

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

*No report scheduled*

General Counsel's Report

b) Litigation Report (For information only)

c) Annual Legislative Update

General Counsel Borden said there was a very active legislative session in Annapolis. More than 100 pieces of legislation were tracked by the legal team, and they prepared or amended position statements for more than 25 bills. She praised legislative liaison Jordan Baucum-Colbert for her hard work saying how very successful the agency was in getting favorable language to the M-NCPPC into, or unfavorable language removed from, various bills. She also reviewed specific bills that were passed or defeated that impacted the agency. Information on these bills are located in her report that was sent to Commissioners and senior staff prior to the meeting. She added that Prince George's Parks received \$4.7M in state grants and Montgomery Parks received \$1.2M. She said M-NCPPC Legal will work with Montgomery Parks to ensure they get more in state grants.

Chair Shapiro praised the Office of the General Council for coordinating a successful legislative session. This has been a truly collaborative effort. Commissioner Washington was very pleased

with the report and all of the suggestions that were incorporated into this year's session. Other Commissioners echoed the sentiment.

Commissioner Linden asked if certain bills that did not pass would likely be brought back again during a future year's session. General Counsel Borden said it was likely the Montgomery County People's Council Bill would reappear unless the Montgomery County Council acts to define the position. The Prince George's County Zoning and Fairness Bill; the state's Affordable Housing Bill; Prince George's County Municipal Zoning; and Del. Austin's Land Use bills are all also likely to return. Staff will start working with legislators to develop strategy over the next several months to get ahead of the issues.

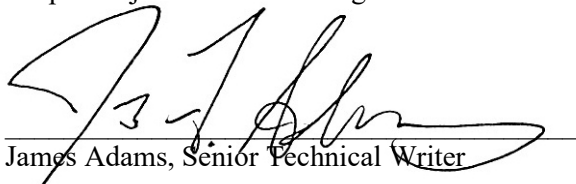
General Counsel Borden said legislative debrief meetings will be scheduled with various departments in the next few weeks.

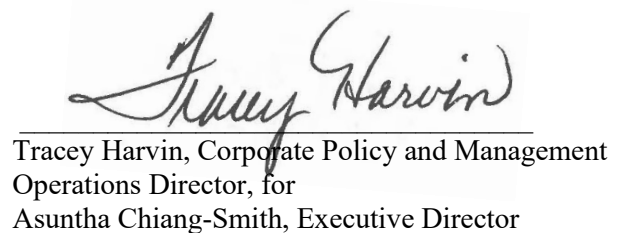
*Pursuant to the Maryland General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 3-305(b), (9), Commissioner Geraldo moved to enter a closed session to consider matters relating to collective bargaining negotiations with the Municipal and County Government Employees' Organization and the Fraternal Order of Police bargaining units to preserve the Commission's negotiating position. Commissioner Hedrick seconded. All Commissioners attending approved.*

Closed session commenced at 11:21 a.m.

ITEM 7.           CLOSED SESSION  
                  a) Collective Bargaining Update

Open Session resumed at 11:44: a.m. where Chair Shapiro acknowledged a vote was taken to approve closed session minutes and collective bargaining strategy was discussed. With no other business to discuss, Chair Shapiro adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

  
James Adams, Senior Technical Writer

  
Tracey Harvin, Corporate Policy and Management  
Operations Director, for  
Asuntha Chiang-Smith, Executive Director