



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

6611 Kenilworth Avenue • Riverdale, Maryland 20737

Commission Meeting
Open Session Minutes
February 19, 2025

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission met in a hybrid format, from the Wheaton Headquarters Building Auditorium in Wheaton, Maryland and virtually via videoconference. The meeting was broadcast by the Montgomery Planning Department.

PRESENT

Montgomery County Commissioners

Artie Harris, Chair
Shawn Bartley
James Hedrick
Mitra Pedoeem

Prince George's County Commissioners

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

NOT PRESENT

Josh Linden

William Doerner

Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

ITEM 1 CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the February 19, 2025 Commission meeting Agenda
- b) Resolution 25-02 Land Disposition Correcting Parcel Boundary in Black Hill Regional Park (Sandberg)

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the Consent Agenda
Seconded by Commissioner Bailey
8 approved the items

ITEM 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Approval of Commission Minutes – Open Session
Regular Meeting: 1/22/25

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the 1/22/25 minutes
Seconded by Commissioner Hedrick
8 approved the item

ITEM 3 GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) American/National Heart Month
- b) Black History Month
- c) Upcoming Women's History Month
- d) Financial Disclosure Filing Requirement April 30 (State and M-NCPPC Deadline)
- e) Appreciation to Terry Charles
- f) Appreciation to Commission Doerner

ITEM 4 COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS

- a) Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes from December 3, 2025 (for Information Only)

ITEM 5 ACTION/PRESENTATION ITEMS

- a) Recommendation of Polen Capital as a New Investment Manager for the Employees' Retirement System (J. Harris)

ERS Director Jaclyn Harris asked Commissioners to approve the ERS Board of Trustees recommendation of a new investment manager for the ERS. Director Harris provided a brief overview and offered to answer questions. With no questions, Chair Harris thanked ERS for their work.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve Polen Capital as a New Investment Manager for the Employees' Retirement System.

Seconded by Commissioner Bailey

8 approved the item

- b) Diversity Council Membership/Strategic Plan Update (Diversity Council)

2025 Diversity Council Chair Ashlyn Thompson delivered an update on the Diversity Council Strategic Plan, per the presentation reflected in the packet. She highlighted the Inclusion Palooza, input survey, and Capital Pride DC job applications. She thanked the Commission for their ongoing support. Chair Harris thanked the Council for their work and specifically Ms. Solomon as Chair, and asked how they know they are making a difference. Ms. Thompson responded that they see an increase in the amount of engagement and feedback in their analytics, specifically the website FAQ and questions being answered by Executive Director Bill Spencer. Commissioners Geraldo and Bailey thanked the Council and offered support. Commissioner Bartley also thanked them and emphasized the importance of the Council and Black History Month.

- c) Legislative Update (D. Borden)

General Counsel Debra Borden delivered an update on the Housing For Jobs Act. She indicated that no voting action is needed at this time. She indicated that it is a complex topic, and a more comprehensive update will be forthcoming after formal input from the Montgomery Planning Board and Office of General Counsel land use teams.

This item is State legislation looking to introduce a ratio between housing and jobs area region produces. It looks to have a trigger for consequences if they do not match. This legislation is undergoing analysis to ensure there is no negative consequences for the Counties and Commission. The section of the bill pertaining to judicial review may create new uncertainties. Current judicial review process is well understood and long established. A change of standard review from the currently established agency deference may change. Chair Harris asked for context regarding deference. General Counsel Borden responded that currently courts will grant a level of deference to the agency so long as they have been lawful and interpreted reasonably and will often defer to agency expertise. More details will be presented tomorrow as part of a larger package.

General Counsel Borden delivered comments on a second Bill, SB770. This concerns applicants for positions involved direct contact with minors. Enlarges the group of agencies required to meet enhanced screening by State Child Protective Services. While current staff undergo background checks, some childcare centers operated by Prince George's Parks and

Recreation might be impacted by the expanded requirement. While not opposed to the requirement, given the large number of seasonal staff who would require a check, the timing and amount may overwhelm CPS processing capacity. Will be contacting the bill sponsor to communicate this and will provide more information in the future.

Vice-Chair Shapiro asked if we have been in contact with CPS regarding capacity and do CPS checks happen in parallel with the rest of the onboarding process. General Counsel Borden responded that not on this issue but on previous issues regarding capacity and worked with CPS and the Attorney General and they would likely be concerned with a new increased capacity requirement. Staff confirmed that checks happen in parallel, but we currently only have a handful of facilities that need to be checked currently. Commissioner Pedoeem asked if CPS was the only group authorized to do these checks, what is considered a youth and recommended if the timeline is too long, we communicate this as it may cause a negative impact on hiring. General Counsel Borden responded that CPS is the only State agency that does these checks and that anyone under the age of 18 is considered a youth. Chair Harris asked why this is being put forward now as a bill. General Counsel Borden responded that we do not know the intent the of sponsor, but with increased news regarding persons in these roles getting arrested, this is likely in response to increase public safety of minors. We understand and want patrons to be safe and currently conduct background checks but want the expansion to be managed effectively to avoid negative impacts.

ITEM 6

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

No report scheduled

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

No report scheduled

General Counsel's Report

No report scheduled

Pursuant to the Maryland General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, section 3-305(b)(9) a closed session is proposed to conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations.

Item 5. CLOSED SESSION

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to enter closed session

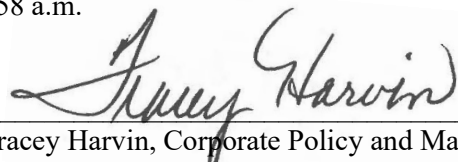
Seconded by Commissioner Bartley

8-0 approved the items

Open session resumed at 10:56 a.m. During closed session, Acting Executive Director Spencer briefed Commissioners on the status of negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police and the Municipal and County Government Employees' Organization collective bargaining unit and closed session minutes were passed from previous meetings. Chair Harris adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.



Kevin J. Davey, Acting Technical Writer



Tracey Harvin, Corporate Policy and Management
Operations Director, for
William Spencer, Acting Executive Director