



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

6611 Kenilworth Avenue • Riverdale, Maryland 20737

Commission Meeting  
Open Session Minutes  
May 21, 2025

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission met in a hybrid format in-person at the Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Administration Building in Riverdale, MD and virtually via videoconference. The meeting was broadcast by the Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County.

PRESENT

Montgomery County Commissioners

Artie Harris, Chair  
James Hedrick  
Mitra Pedoeem

Prince George's County Commissioners

Manuel Geraldo  
A. Shuanise Washington

NOT PRESENT

Shawn Bartley  
Josh Linden

Peter A. Shapiro, Vice Chair  
Dorothy Bailey

Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

ITEM 1

Consent AGENDA

- a) Approval of the May 21, 2025 Commission meeting Agenda
- b) Resolution 25-08 Bethesda Minor Mater Plan Amendment
- c) Resolution 25-10 Paint Branch Stream Restoration Easements

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the consent agenda  
Seconded by Commissioner Hedrick  
5 approved the item

ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Approval of Commission Minutes – Open Session  
Regular Meeting: 4/16/25

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the 4/16/25 minutes  
Seconded by Commissioner Hedrick  
2 approved the item  
3 abstained (Harris, Pedoeem, Washington)

ITEM 3

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Memorial Day Holiday, Monday May 26
- b) Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
- c) Jewish-American Heritage Month
- d) Military Appreciation Month
- e) Upcoming Juneteenth Holiday, Thursday June 19

ITEM 4      COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS

- a) Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes from April 1, 2025 (for Information Only)

ITEM 5      ACTION/PRESENTATION ITEMS

- a) CAS Salary Savings Transfer Request (Charles)

Corporate Budget Director Charles asked Commission approval to re-allocate approximately \$2.23M in anticipated Central Administrative Services year-end funds. Of these funds, \$1.65M will be used to pre-fund the Commission-wide IT Initiative Internal Service Fund to prefund Enterprise Resource Program Upgrade project; and \$0.58M will be used to support pre-payment of FY26 expenses. The savings primarily come from salary lapse savings from vacant positions.

Pre-payment of FY26 expenses have been proposed to counter the adopted non-recommended reductions. Any year-end savings beyond those listed in the memo will be added to the general admin reserve fund.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the adjustments  
Seconded by Commissioner Washington  
5 approved the item

- b) Resolution 25-09 Approval of the M-NCPPC Employees' Retirement System FY26 Operating Budget (Harris)

M-NCPPC Employees' Retirement System Executive Director Jaclyn Harris requested approval for the ERS FY26 Operating Budget of \$3.3665M, which represents a 5.5% increase. The ERS Board prepared an outline of the FY26 Employees' Retirement System budget, included in the packet.

Commissioner Geraldo asked for clarification on what factors contributed to the 5.5% budget increase. Ms. Harris replied that the increase reflected several ERS Goals and Priorities, including:

- Enhancements to member service systems
- Completion of a 5-year Actuarial Experience Study
- Issuance of an RFP for an Organizational Study of the ERS
- Implementation of a new software solution to support annual financial and budget reporting
- Investment Manager searches aligned with the ERS's Asset Allocation Policy

Commissioner Pedoeem asked for details on the budget cycle and funding sources for the ERS, and how it was tied to the M-NCPPC budget/budget cycle. Ms. Harris provided some details and explained the ERS operates independently from the M-NCPPC and is funded mainly by investment income

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Washington to approve the Resolution 25-09  
Seconded by Commissioner Geraldo  
5 approved the item

c) Follow-up on GLP-1 Drug Policy (Allen)

Corporate HR Director Allen and Benefits Manager McDonald presented on the benefits package for CVS-Caremark benefits for GLP-1 medications for employees and their eligible dependents. Mr. Allen and Ms. McDonald shared a presentation describing the program, highlighting the data behind recent changes in approval for prescribing these medications.

Prior to October 2024, GLP-1 drugs were filled by prescription only, which was causing a significant increase in the cost of prescription insurance coverage. To mitigate insurance costs, the M-NCPPC implemented a change in policy in November of 2024 to require physician pre-authorization for recommended weight loss to take the medication specifically to lose weight. Provided there was a confirmed history of diabetes, or a pre-authorization to treat diabetes, prescriptions would be approved without question.

Commissioner Hedrick asked if the reason we restricted these drugs was to save money, did the new policy result in us denying anyone. He noted the presentation's reporting of a decrease in diabetics being prescribed the medication and asked if they were being recategorized from being diabetic to simply being overweight, and if so, why. He asked if the recategorization amounted to anything other than adding an administrative burden. He also suggested that some of the funds supporting wellness programs might be reallocated to supporting these clinically effective drugs, since the efficacy of many wellness programs may be suspect.

Mr. Allen noted many of the wellness programs offered by the M-NCPPC are free and supported by both United HealthCare and Kaiser. He said the decrease in diabetes patients and increase in obesity patients wasn't necessarily due to clinical or administrative recategorization so much as collecting a more accurate data set, since the data was not examined as closely prior to November 2024. Commissioner Pedoeem noted how much she likes and appreciates the M-NCPPC's various wellness programs.

Commissioners asked if these GLP-1 drugs were lifetime drugs, and in order to maintain an effective weight loss, a patient would likely need to continue taking them indefinitely, creating long-term costs. Mr. Allen agreed.

Chair Harris recommended continuing to monitor the drugs' use and for Mr. Allen to return for additional reports in November 2025 and at 12-month intervals thereafter. He also asked if metrics could be developed to monitor the effectiveness of the wellness programs. Commissioners agreed.

d) Resolution 25-11 Appointment of Brenda Edmond to the Merit System Board (King)

Commissioners considered the appointment of Ms. Edmond to the Merit Board. Ms. Edmond's resume and the appointment resolution were issued as a late delivery item.

Chair Harris said both he and Vice-Chair Shapiro spoke with Ms. Edmond about the appointment and think she is a great addition to the Board.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Washington to approve the Resolution 25-11  
Seconded by Commissioner Geraldo  
5 approved the item

ITEM 6

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

*No report scheduled*

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

*No report scheduled*

General Counsel's Report

- a) Litigation Report (For information only)
- b) Legislative Update (Baucum-Colbert)

Ms. Baucum-Colbert presented the Annual Legislative Report, detailing the Maryland General Assembly's major legislative bills taken up by the legislature that impacted the M-NCPPC. Ms. Baucum-Colbert provided highlights from the report, provided as a late delivery item.

Chair Harris thanked Ms. Baucum Colbert for her hard work and leadership during the session. Commissioners added their appreciation.

Commissioner Pedoeem asked if the Legal team could discuss the impact of the Solar Bill and the Growth Bill to M-NCPPC procedures and practices in Montgomery County. Senior Counsel Matthew Mills said the impact on the M-NCPPC should be minimal for the Solar Bill. Montgomery Planning Director Sartori said the Department will be examining the Growth Bill and working with counsel staff to keep M-NCPPC policies aligned with the new law. Mr. Sartori added the agency was involved in crafting the language of the bill so it would align with Montgomery Planning policies. Commissioner Pedoeem asked how the POS funding impacted the Montgomery Parks budget. Deputy Director Flusche confirmed several projects were cut due to the reduced budget, although much had been offset by bond bill funding.

Chair Harris commended Ms. Jordan and the staff who worked together and supported each other as a whole agency, finding strength in numbers to secure funding for the M-NCPPC.


*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 Washington  
5 approved the motion

Commissioners entered Closed session at 11:23 a.m. Open session resumed at 11:42 a.m. Chair Harris said during closed session, Acting Executive Director Spencer briefed Commissioners on the status of negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police and Municipal and County Government Employees' Organization collective bargaining units. The Commissioners also passed closed session minutes from the previous meeting.

Chair Harris adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

  
James F. Adams, Senior Technical Writer

  
William Spencer, Acting Executive Director