



Commission Meeting Open Session Minutes June 29, 2026

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

Present

Prince George's County Commissioners

Billy Okoye

Manuel Geraldo

Brittany Jenkins

Lori Matthews

Montgomery County Commissioners

Artie Harris, Chair

Shawn Bartley (virtual)

James Hedrick (virtual)

Josh Linden (virtual)

Mitra Pedoeem (virtual)

Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Item 1. Approval of the Consent Agenda

a) Approval of May 20, 2026, Commission Meeting Agenda

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the meeting agenda

Seconded by Commissioner Okoye

9 approved the items

Item 2. Approval of Commission Minutes

a) Open Session – May 20 and 29, 2026

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the Commission Minutes of May 20 and 29, 2026

Seconded by Commissioner Okoye

9 approved the items

Item 3. General Announcements

- a) Juneteenth Holiday
- b) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month
- c) Upcoming July 4th Independence Day Holiday (Commission Holiday Observed - July 3)
- d) Rotation of Commission Chairmanship on July 1, 2026

Item 4. Committee and Board Reports

- a) Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes from May 5, 2026 (for Information Only)

Pursuant to the Maryland General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, a closed session is proposed pursuant to:

- a) Section 3-305(b)(9), to conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to MCGEO and FOP negotiations – Topic: MCGEO and FOP negotiations; and
- b) Section 3-305(b)(1), to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals – Topic: Executive Director

Item 5. Closed Session

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to enter closed session
Seconded by Commissioner Okoye
9 approved the items

On motion of Commissioner Geraldo, seconded by Commissioner Okoye, with Commissioners Bartley, Geraldo, Harris, Hedrick, Jenkins, Linden, Matthews, Okoye, and Pedoeem voting in favor of the motion, the Commission convened in Closed Session at 2:20 p.m. under the authority of Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(9), to conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations; and (1), to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. Present for the meeting were Commissioners Bartley, Geraldo, Harris, Hedrick, Jenkins, Linden, Matthews, Okoye, and Pedoeem.

Also present for the meeting were William Spencer, Acting Executive Director; Gavin Cohen, Secretary-Treasurer (virtual); Debra Borden, General Counsel; James Hunt, Acting Director, Prince George's Planning (virtual); Jason Sartori, Director, Montgomery Planning (virtual), Miti Figueredo, Director, Montgomery Parks (virtual); Wes Aniton, Deputy General Counsel; Ben Rupert, Principal Counsel (virtual); Emily Váias, Principal Counsel (virtual); Gary Burnett, Deputy Director, Montgomery Parks (virtual); Steve Carter, Deputy Director, Prince George's Parks and Recreation (virtual); Mazen Chilet, Chief Information Officer (virtual); Sean Harbaugh, Chief of Staff, Prince George's Parks and Recreation (virtual); Adrienne Harris-Moore, Division Chief, Prince George's Parks and Recreation (for Tara Stewart, Deputy Director, Prince George's Parks and

Recreation/virtual); Tracey Harvin, Corporate Policy and Management Operations Director; Robert Kronenberg, Deputy Director, Montgomery Planning (Virtual); and James Parsons, Sr. Technical Writer, DHRM

Open session resumed at 3:09 p.m.

Item 6. Action and Presentation Items

a) Resolution #26-07, Referral Bonus Suspension (Allen/Beckham)

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve resolution 26-07 for the indefinite suspension of the Employee Referral Bonus Program

Seconded by Commissioner Matthews

9 approved the item

As detailed in the packet, Corporate HR Director Todd Allen discussed the proposed indefinite suspension of the Employee Referral Bonus program, which has been temporarily suspended since June 2025. This program offered employees \$500 for referred Merit employee hires and \$50 for referred seasonal hires for hard-to-fill positions. Director Allen noted that with more than 71,000 applications received thus far this fiscal year, Department Heads have unanimously agreed that the program is no longer necessary. He added that the opportunity to re-evaluate and discuss the possible reactivation of the program will remain open.

b) Resolution #26-08, Adoption of the FY27 Commission Operating and Capital Budgets (Charles)

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve Resolution #26-08 for the Adoption of the FY27 Commission Operating and Capital Budgets

Seconded by Commissioner Pedoeem

9 approved the item

Deputy General Counsel Wes Aniton offered an opening statement regarding Prince George's County bill CB-057-2026 and County resolution CR-058-2026 mandating that the MNCPPC transfer \$39,319,237 directly to the County by July 1, 2026. According to the Deputy General Counsel, the provision to transfer the funds that is included in the bill and resolution is contingent upon the complaint filed by the MNCPPC against the County on June 9. On June 26, a judge ruled in favor of the MNCPPC and granted a temporary injunction that stops the transfer of funds. The trial to determine whether a permanent injunction will be granted is scheduled for September 2026.

As detailed in the packet, Corporate Budget Director Terri Charles discussed the proposed FY27 Commission Operating and Capital Budgets, noting that the total FY27 budget is \$938.8 million excluding reserves, which is an increase of \$20 million, or 2.2%, from the FY26 budget.

The total Prince George's County budget decreased by 1.3% from FY26, with property taxes remaining unchanged from those set in FY16. With all funds accounted for, the budget submitted for approval today is \$710 million.

The Montgomery County budget increased by 10.0% from FY26, for a requested budget approval of \$332.5 million. Director Charles noted that the increase is attributed to an increase of 38.5% in the Capital Projects, as well as an increase of 4.8% in tax-supported funds.

Budget adjustments for the Montgomery County budget include a 5.7% reduction for the Administration Fund, a 1.3% reduction for the Park Fund; and a decrease of 4.7% for the Special Revenue Fund.

Budget adjustments for the Prince George's County budget include a 6.5% decrease for the Administration Fund, a reduction of 1.8% for the Parks Fund, an increase of 5.8% for the Recreation Fund, and an increase of \$33.8 million for the Largo Headquarters Fund.

The Capital Budget saw an increase of \$14 million.

In response to a question from Commissioner Geraldo regarding funding for a new Park Police station house, Director Charles stated that a fund transfer embedded in the Administration Fund that was intended to help fund the project was decreased from \$10 million to \$2 million, but staff are exploring options to complete the project.

c) CAS Salary Savings Transfers (Charles)

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the transfer request
Seconded by Commissioner Okoye
9 approved the item

As detailed in the packet, Corporate Budget Director Terri Charles presented a request to transfer up to \$1.15 million in year-end salary savings from several Central Administrative Services departments to the CIO Internal Service Fund (\$500,000) and Commission-wide IT (CWIT) Fund (\$650,000). The transfer will support enterprise IT operations and future technology investments. Director Charles noted the request complies with budget transfer requirements and does not affect the approved work program.

d) ERS proposed FY27 ERS Operating Budget (Harris)

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve Resolution 26-09 for the approval of the proposed ERS FY27 Operating Budget
Seconded by Commissioner Matthews
9 approved the item

As detailed in the packet, ERS Executive Director Jaclyn Harris briefed the Commissioners and requested approval of the FY27 Employees' Retirement System (ERS) Operating Budget of \$3,508,000, which is a 4.3% decrease from the FY26 budget. The operating budget also includes estimates for investment manager fees. Director Harris noted that a

budget amendment will be submitted after the ERS Board of Trustees reviews the results of an ongoing operations and administration study, which is being conducted by an external consultant. The ERS Board's recommendations are expected to reduce the savings projected in the budget being presented today. Director Harris added that the current budget was presented to and approved by the ERS Board of Trustees at the June Board of Trustees meeting.

e) Wage Adjustment Resolutions (King)

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve Resolutions 26-10 and 26-11 for the approval of the wage adjustments.

Seconded by Commissioner Jenkins

9 approved the item

As detailed in the packet, Classification and Compensation Chief Boni King discussed proposed wage adjustments for Park Police command staff and General Service Grade 40 positions, who are currently experiencing pay compression issues. The MNCPPC's Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with union represented police officers provides for a 10% pay increase when a sergeant is placed in an acting lieutenant position, which is part of the command staff. The CBA also requires the MNCPPC to maintain a differential between the ranks of sergeant and lieutenant of at least 10%, but currently there is only an 8.2% differential. To address this issue, management and leadership are proposing a 1.2% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for command staff effective June 7, 2026, and an additional 1.0% that would not increase salaries but would be put in place to elongate the salary range. The 1.0% addition to the salary scale would be effective June 21, 2026.

Chief King then discussed adjustments for General Service Grade 40 positions, which include Montgomery Park and Planning Deputy Directors. With the approval of the changes requested for command staff, the differential between Grade 40 deputies and command staff will be less than 5%. To address this, a 5% adjustment to the Grade 40 salary range is proposed, effective June 21. The proposed 5.0% is not a COLA, and Grade 40 deputies would not receive any benefit from the elongated salary scale until the receipt of the employee's performance review, which occurs in conjunction with the deputy's work anniversary. Chief King added that department heads and executive leadership have provided support for the proposed changes.

Item 7. Officers' Reports

a) MFD Quarterly Purchasing Statistics (for information only)

b) Quarterly Budget Transfers (for information only)

Executive Director's Report

No report scheduled

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

No report scheduled

General Counsel

c) Litigation and Administrative Hearings Report (for information only)

Pursuant to the Maryland General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 3-305(b)(7), a closed session is proposed to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; and Section 3-305(b)(8), to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

Topic: Project Charge Litigation

Item 8. Closed Session

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to re-enter closed session

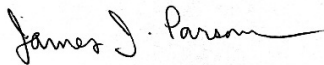
Seconded by Commissioner Matthews

9 approved the items

On motion of Commissioner Geraldo, seconded by Commissioner Matthews, with Commissioners Bartley, Geraldo, Harris, Hedrick, Jenkins, Linden, Matthews, Okoye, and Pedoeem voting in favor of the motion, the Commission reconvened in Closed Session at 3:51 p.m. under the authority of Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7), to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; and Section 3-305(b)(8), to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. Present for the meeting were Commissioners Bartley, Geraldo, Harris, Hedrick, Jenkins, Linden, Matthews, Okoye, and Pedoeem.

Also present for the meeting were Debra Borden, General Counsel; Wes Aniton, Deputy General Counsel; Ben Rupert, Principal Counsel (virtual); Emily Vaias, Principal Counsel (virtual); David Warner, Principal Counsel (virtual); and James Parsons, Sr. Technical Writer, DHRM.

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.



James J. Parsons, Senior Technical Writer



William Spencer, Acting Executive Director