



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

6611 Kenilworth Avenue • Riverdale, Maryland 20737

Commission Meeting
Open Session Minutes
January 15, 2020

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission met at the Montgomery Regional Office Auditorium in Silver Spring, Maryland.

PRESENT

Prince George’s County Commissioners

Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Chair
Dorothy Bailey
William Doerner
Manuel Geraldo

Montgomery County Commissioners

Casey Anderson, Vice-Chair
Gerald Cichy
Tina Patterson

NOT PRESENT

A. Shuanise Washington

Natali Fani-Gonzalez
Partap Verma

Chair Hewlett convened the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

ITEM 1 APPROVAL OF COMMISSION AGENDA

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Bailey to approve the Commission agenda
Seconded by Commissioner Geraldo
The motion was approved unanimously

ITEM 2 APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Open Session – December 18, 2019
Closed Session – December 18, 2019
ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Bailey to approve the minutes
Seconded by Commissioner Doerner
The motion was approved unanimously

ITEM 3 GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Hewlett wished everyone a happy new year and announced the following for the month of January:

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday is today. The M-NCPPC will be observing it on Monday, January 20.
- National Blood Donor Month
- National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month
- Upcoming M-NCPPC Black History Month Events – February 2020. Black women in politics, to the Ballot Box and beyond on January 26 and Detroit February 7.

Chair Hewlett announced the newly appointed Director of the Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation, Bill Tyler, will start on February 9. Vice-Chair

Anderson also congratulated Mr. Tyler noting his outstanding management and leadership qualities. Chair Hewlett indicated that Mr. Tyler will be recognized more at the upcoming February Commission meeting, following his appointment. She also recognized the department's leaders during the transition, particularly Acting Director Debbie Tyner.

Chair Hewlett:

- Congratulated Commissioner Patterson for graduating from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Baltimore Division Citizens Academy Program in October 2019.
- Recognized members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha a Happy Founders Day on its 112th anniversary. She also congratulated members of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority on its 107th Anniversary, commending all for their service and sisterhood.
- Welcomed Commissioner Doerner back to the Commission after an extended absence caring for his newborn daughter. Everyone's thoughts and well-wishes meant so much to the family.

Vice-chair Anderson expressed the Commission's condolences to the former colleagues of past Montgomery Parks Director Lester Straw, who passed away recently.

ITEM 4 COMMITTEE MINUTES/BOARD REPORTS (For Information Only)

- a) Executive Committee – Open Session Jan 3, 2020
- b) Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – December 3, 2019

ITEM 5 ACTION AND PRESENTATION ITEMS

a) Rotation of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair Hewlett shared it has been great pleasure to work with Vice Chair Anderson and the whole Commission. Commissioner Geraldo thanked Chair Hewlett for her service and leadership.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Cichy to approve Montgomery County Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson as 2020 Commission Chair and Prince George's County Planning Board Chair Elizabeth Hewlett as 2020 Commission Vice-Chair
Seconded by Commissioner Bailey.
The motion was approved unanimously

Chair Anderson said it has been an honor working with Vice-Chair Hewlett for the past five years, has learned a lot from her during the time, and looks forward to continuing to do so.

- b) Nomination of Eli Glazier to the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (Anspacher)
Chair Anderson asked for a motion to nominate the Montgomery County Planning Department's Eli Glazer to the committee. He noted Fred Schaeffer from the Prince George's Planning Department has been serving on the Committee for several years, thanked him for his service and wonderful work. Mr. Glazier was being recommended to the position and Chair Anderson believes he will do a fantastic job with advocating for biking and pedestrian infrastructure and safety.

ACTION: Motion of Vice-Chair Hewlett to approve the appointment
Seconded by Bailey
The motion was approved unanimously

- c) PowerPoint Presentation on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for Fiscal Year End June 30, 2019 (Zimmerman/Rodman/Lehman):
Secretary-Treasurer Zimmerman introduced Mr. Chris Lehman of the audit firm, SB & Co., and Corporate Accounting Manager Abbey Rodman. Mr. Lehman was pleased to report there was nothing unusual in the audit findings for the agency's fiscal report, noting no significant deficiencies, material weaknesses or instances of fraud. Ms. Rodman summarized the CAFR document, providing snapshots of the Prince George's and Montgomery County Administration, Parks, and Enterprise funds.

Chair Anderson and Vice-Chair Hewlett thanked the presenters for the report, pleased that the Audit was positive.

- d) Diversity Council
1. Introduction of the 2020 Diversity Council (Chiang-Smith/Bennett)
Combined with item 2.
 2. Certificates of Appreciation for 2019 Diversity Council (Chiang-Smith/Bennett)
Executive Director Chiang-Smith introduced the incoming and outgoing Diversity Councils and thanked them for their service. Commissioners added their appreciation. Ms. Bennett, who served as the Acting Executive Director for 2019, was unable to attend to the Commission meeting.
 3. 2019 Diversity Council Year-end Report (Weiss/Black/Bush)
2019 Diversity Council Chair Weiss and Vice Co-Chair Black presented the Diversity Council's 2019 Annual review of accomplishments including development and adoption of a Strategic Plan, diversity council outreach, communications and programs. Vice Co-chair Bush discussed upcoming events planned for 2020, including Women's History Month, the One-Commission Diversity Event and "Unconscious Bias" Training.

Chair Anderson shared that he encouraged greater training on unconscious bias training and wanted to learn how this training will be rolled out to departments. Commissioner Cichy recommended that the Diversity Council participate in any upcoming legislative receptions where it may be beneficial to share the agency's commitment on diversity. General Council Gardner will keep Commissioners apprised of any developments on a new event.

e) Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for Fiscal Year 2020 (Kroll)

The Commission received its 34th consecutive award for its budget report from the National GFOA, for excellence in reporting and transparency. Corporate Budget Manager Kroll invited the M-NCPPC's cross-departmental budget team to join him to be recognized for the GFOA Award.

f) Montgomery Planning Project Update (Wright)

Montgomery Planning Director Gwen Wright introduced Deputy Planning Director Robert Kronenberg and noted Deputy Director Tanya Stern was currently working offsite. Director Wright and Deputy Director Kronenberg presented the update to Montgomery County's General Plan Update – *Thrive Montgomery 2050*.

The update presented three major components/goals:

- Community Equity
- Economic Health
- Environmental Resilience

This project has an extraordinary amount of outreach, with multiple events held in every part of the county to inform everyone about the project and get their input. The project included an advertising campaign including images and ads at Metro stations and bus signs. Surveys asking provocative questions to think beyond day to day issues and take a broad look to the future. Particular effort was made to reach out to communities who usually do not participate in the planning effort, including making inroads to ethnic media – Spanish and Chinese language newspapers, and translating information into multiple languages. The website can be downloaded into different languages.

The department is taking all feedback, grouping comments into categories to create *Thrive Montgomery 2050 Top Issues Report*, to cover complete communities, connectedness, diverse economies, safe and efficient travel, affordability, healthy and sustainable environment, diverse and adaptable growth, and culture and design. Director Wright added the department is examining how to address the issues with new policies and actions.

Director Wright and Deputy Director Kronenberg described other ongoing projects that help achieve the three major goals of *Thrive Montgomery 2050*. Future projects include the Silver Spring Master Plan; the White Flint 10-year Check Up; the Ashton Village Plan; and the Fairland Minor Master Plan.

Director Wright commended her staff, for a tremendous job on this major project and invited Commissioners to ask questions.

Commissioner Cichy asked about the acquisition of surplus property for transportation and how that might be expanded into housing. Director Wright said the department is pursuing the possibility as part of the housing initiative. The department is looking at all possibilities, including public lands acquired for transportation. Commissioner Cichy said this could be a great asset and suggested broadening the Transit Oriented Development zones to include transportation land acquisition.

Commissioner Doerner commented on financing of small, 2-4 or 6-10 unit housing properties is very difficult because of the multiple add-ons and pricing layers, versus financing on single-unit or medium to large 10+ or 50+ unit properties. He asked for any additional

information the department might have on financing incentives, saying it would be helpful to encourage the growth of those properties.

ITEM 6 OFFICERS' REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

- a) Employee Evaluations Not Completed by Due Date (December 2019) (For information only)
- b) Financial Disclosure Filings. Packets were delivered to Commissioners and filing deadline is April 30. Department staff who are required to file will receive their information as well.

Secretary Treasurer Report

No report

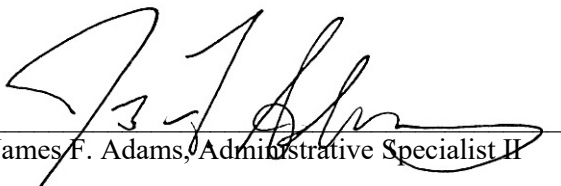
General Counsel Report

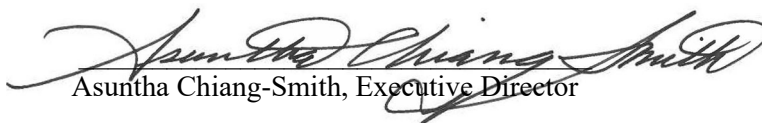
- c) Litigation Report (For information only)

Chair Anderson asked for a motion to enter closed session at 11:40 a.m. Chair Hewlett moved, Commissioner Geraldo seconded. 7 approved the motion.

Pursuant to Maryland General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 3-305(b) (7) & (9), a closed session is proposed to consult with counsel for legal advice and conduct collective bargaining discussions.

Open session resumed at 11:49 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting ended at 11:49 a.m.


James F. Adams, Administrative Specialist II


Asuntha Chiang-Smith, Executive Director