



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

6611 Kenilworth Avenue • Riverdale, Maryland 20737

Commission Meeting  
Open Session Minutes  
January 20, 2021

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission met via videoconference with the Chair initiating the meeting at the Wheaton Headquarters Auditorium in Wheaton, Maryland. The meeting was broadcast by the Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County.

PRESENT

Montgomery County Commissioners

Casey Anderson, Chair  
Gerald Cichy  
Tina Patterson  
Partap Verma

Prince George's County Commissioners

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

NOT PRESENT

Natali Fani-Gonzalez

A. Shuanise Washington

Chair Anderson called meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

ITEM 1 APPROVAL OF COMMISSION AGENDA

No modifications

ACTION: Motion of Vice-Chair Hewlett to approve the agenda  
Seconded by Commissioner Geraldo  
8 approved the motion

ITEM 2 APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Open Session – December 16, 2020

Closed Session – December 16, 2020

ACTION: Motion of Vice-Chair Hewlett to approve the minutes  
Seconded by Commissioner Geraldo  
7 approved the motion  
1 abstention (Patterson)

ITEM 3 GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Presidential Inauguration
- b) National Blood Donor Month
- c) National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month
- d) Upcoming M-NCPPC Black History Month Observances – February 2021
- e) Financial Disclosure Filing Requirement April 30 (State and M-NCPPC)

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

*No Executive Committee held in January 2021*

- a) Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, November 6, 2020

ITEM 5

ACTION AND PRESENTATION ITEMS

a) Rotation of the Chair

Chair Anderson thanked Vice-Chair Hewlett and all the agency departments for their great cooperation and support. He said the pandemic has tested us, not only personally, but has made us adapt as a Commission and workplace. It is a testament to these wonderful relationships, and there is nobody he would rather be beside than Vice-Chair Betty Hewlett. He thanked all staff from park maintenance workers and support staff, through professional staff and senior management. The agency had no plan or playbook, but our decisions on managing our workforce and budget has left us in good shape. We have seen how critical our planning functions and parks systems and front-line personnel are essential to keep our citizens' mental and physical health intact. The agency will continue to be challenged, but we will come out the other side in the coming term.

Vice Chair Hewlett thanked Chair Anderson, sharing that 2020 was a challenging year and with no playbook and it was a pleasure to work with the management team to navigate these waters. She was proud of all our employees, and their efforts to keep facilities open, available, inclusive and compassionate. She asked for prayers for the safety to our 62 park police officers while they protect our new administration and the residents of Washington DC during the inauguration. She reminded all to continue to step up, stand up, and speak up.

ACTION: Motion of Patterson to elect Elizabeth Hewlett as M-NCPPC Chair and Casey Anderson as M-NPCPPC Vice-Chair for 2021.  
Seconded by Geraldo  
8 approved the motion

b) Resolution 20-28 Adoption of the Mihran Mesrobian House: Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation (Liebertz)

No Discussion

ACTION: Motion of Anderson to adopt Resolution 20-28  
Seconded by Geraldo  
8 approved the motion

c) Resolution 21-01 M-NPCPPC CAPRA Accreditation (Bennett/Ramos/Nissel)

No Discussion

ACTION: Motion of Geraldo to adopt Resolution 21-01  
Seconded by Patterson  
8 approved the motion

d) Diversity Council

Executive Director Chiang-Smith said the agency's Diversity Counsel has met online this year to meet its goals. She noted its work is more important than ever and staff can use a message of hope to work together and find commonalities. The counsel put together training on a Diversity Equity Inclusion program and this hear two liaisons from the Park Police have joined the council.

- i. Appreciation of 2020 Departing Members (Chiang-Smith)  
Executive Director Chiang-Smith thanked individual departing members, adding she hoped these individuals continue to help and use their training as the Council moves forward.
- ii. Introduction of 2021 Diversity Council (Chiang-Smith)  
Executive Director Chiang-Smith introduced incoming members of the 2021 Diversity Council, who will be continuing its work.

Chair Hewlett expressed her thanks to the Diversity Council and its importance to the Commission. It demonstrates inclusion and embraces differences in cultures and people.

- iii. Diversity Council 2020 Year in Review (Black/Jennai)  
Council Chair Ms. Black shared the Diversity Council's progress from 2020. Guided by the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan. She and Council Vice Chair Jennai shared the presentation and provided highlights from the packet, including:
  - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Training
  - Outreach
  - Communication
  - Website, InSite & SharePoint
  - M-NCPPC Events
  - Representation & Support
  - Policy & Recommendation
  - Strategic Plan & Progress
  - Planning for 2021

Chair Hewlett thanked Ms. Black and Ms. Jennai for the presentation. Commissioner Patterson thanked the team and said she would contact them with more resources and looked forward to supporting them in 2021. Commissioner Geraldo thanked the counsel, noting this year has been more challenging than ever.

- e) Legislative Update (Gardner)  
General Counsel Gardner presented a legislative update on HB285 on behalf of the planning departments and legislative management team. Under current Maryland law, the race and ethnicity of transportation-related accident victims cannot be maintained. HB285 will establish a work group to determine a way to collect this data. This creates a challenge from a planning perspective, since the incidents of traffic accidents where people are injured or killed are not uniform. This would give the state a way to collect this data, He recommended the agency support the bill, noting the agency's Planning Departments do as well.

Vice-Chair Anderson said he is aware the Montgomery County Planning Department has been working on this for some time and wanted to make sure the counties planning departments are sharing data and synched. Director Wright said Transportation Planning staff have been working on the bill, adding the Departments have already been coordinating

closely on it. It will provide data that will greatly help in future planning efforts, including Vision Zero, predictive safety analysis, pedestrian plan and all related work and has been actively coordinated with Prince George's Planning staff in Functional Planning and Policy. General Counsel Gardner noted planners Jesse Cohen and Brian Barnett-Woods connected immediately, are working together very well, and brought it to the attention of the General Counsel's Office.

ACTION: Motion of Geraldo to support HB285  
Seconded by Cichy  
8 approved the motion

ITEM 6

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

a) Late Evaluation Report (December 2020) (For information only)

Executive Director Chiang-Smith said she will be discussing solutions and tools to reduce the number of late evaluations with Directors and Deputies during the next Department Heads' meeting.


Secretary Treasurer Report


No reports scheduled

General Counsel Report

b) Litigation Report (For information only)

There being no further business Chair Hewlett adjourned the meeting sat 10:41 a.m.

  
James F. Adams, Senior Technical Writer

  
Asuntha Chiang-Smith, Executive Director