



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

6611 Kenilworth Avenue • Riverdale, Maryland 20737

Commission Meeting
Open Session Minutes
June 15, 2022

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

PRESENT

Montgomery County Commissioners

Casey Anderson, Chair
Gerald Cichy
Tina Patterson (joined 10:13 am)
Carol Rubin
Partap Verma

Prince George's County Commissioners

Peter A. Shapiro, Vice Chair
Dorothy Bailey
William Doerner (joined 9:50 am)
Manuel Geraldo

NOT PRESENT

A. Shuanise Washington

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

- ITEM 1 APPROVAL OF COMMISSION AGENDA
ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the agenda
 Seconded by Commissioner Rubin
 7 approved the motion
- ITEM 2 APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES
Open Session – May 18, 2022
Closed Session – May 18, 2022
ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Rubin to approve the minutes
 Seconded by Commissioner Geraldo
 7 approved the motion
- ITEM 3 GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
a) National Caribbean American Heritage Month
b) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Pride (LGBTQ) Month
- ITEM 4 COMMITTEE MINUTES/BOARD REPORTS (For Information Only)
a) Executive Committee Meeting, June 1, 2022
b) Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, May 3, 2022
- ITEM 5 CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to Maryland General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 3-305(b) (9), a closed session is proposed on the following topic. The purpose of closing this meeting is generally to protect and

promote the public interest by: (i) preserving privileged and confidential deliberations needed to manage ongoing collective bargaining negotiations.

Chair Anderson asked for a motion to move to closed session. Commissioner Geraldo moved; Commissioner Rubin seconded. The 7 Commissioners in attendance at the start of the closed session voted for the measure and the meeting moved to closed session at 9:38 a.m. The meeting reconvened in a separate virtual meeting platform to discuss Executive Director's collective bargaining update.

ACTION: Geraldo moved to start closed session
Rubin seconded
7 approved the motion

The following individuals were present (via videoconference):

Montgomery County Commissioners

Casey Anderson, Chair
Gerald Cichy
Tina Patterson (arrived 10:13)
Carol Rubin
Partap Verma

Prince George's County Commissioners

Peter A. Shapiro, Vice Chair
Dorothy Bailey
William Doerner (joined 9:50)
Manuel Geraldo

NOT PRESENT

A. Shuanise Washington

Also present (by videoconference):

Asuntha Chiang-Smith, Executive Director
Gavin Cohen, Secretary-Treasurer
Debra Borden, Deputy General Counsel for General Counsel Adrian Gardner
Andree Checkley, Director, Prince George's Planning
Mike Riley, Director, Montgomery Parks
Bill Tyler, Director, Prince George's Parks and Recreation
Gwen Wright, Director, Montgomery County Planning
James Adams, Senior Technical Writer, DHRM
Craig Ballew, Labor Counsel
Michael Beckham, Acting Corporate Policy and Management Operations (CPMO) Director
Gary Burnett, Acting Deputy Director, Montgomery Parks
Steve Carter, Deputy Director, Prince George's Parks and Recreation
Miti Figueredo, Deputy Director, Montgomery Parks
Christian Gabriel, Deputy Director, Prince George's Parks and Recreation
Boni King, Corporate Human Resources Manager for CHR Director Bill Spencer
Suzann King, Deputy Director, Prince George's Planning
Tanya Stern, Deputy Director, Montgomery Parks

The Executive Director updated Commissioners on collective bargaining negotiations and related matters. Commissioners provided direction and support on how to proceed.

Chair Anderson returned the meeting to open session at 10:20 am.

ITEM 6

ACTION AND PRESENTATION ITEMS

- a) Resolution 22-13 Approval of Fiscal Year 2023 Employer Contribution for Retiree Group Health Insurance (115 Trust) (Cohen)

No discussion

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to adopt Resolution 22-13
Seconded by Commissioner Doerner
9 approved the motion

- b) Resolution 22-14 Adoption of the FY23 Commission Operating and Capital Budgets (Kroll)

No discussion

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to adopt Resolution 22-14
Seconded by Commissioner Rubin
9 approved the motion

- c) Fiscal Year 2023 Wage/COLA Adjustments

Executive Director Chiang-Smith tabled item 6c1.

1. Resolution 22-19 Fiscal Year 2023 Wage/COLA Adjustment (MCGEO) (Chiang-Smith)
No Action

Chair Anderson requested a motion to approve Resolutions 22-20, 22-21, 22-22, and 22-23 as a group.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to adopt Resolutions 22-20, 22-21, 22-22 and 22-23
Seconded by Commissioner Doerner
9 approved the motion

2. Resolution 22-20 Fiscal Year 2023 Reopener Agreement on Wages, Retirement and Promotions with Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 30 (Chiang-Smith)

ACTION: See above

3. Resolution 22-21 Fiscal Year 2023 Reopener Agreement on Wages and Retirement for Officers at the Command Ranks of Lieutenant, Captain, and Commander (Chiang-Smith)

ACTION: see above

4. Resolution 22-22 Fiscal Year 2023 Merit Increase/Anniversary Pay Increments, and Other Adjustments for Certain Non-Represented Merit System and Term Contract Employees (Excluding Park Police Officers and Candidates) (Chiang-Smith)

ACTION: see above

5. Resolution 22-23 Fiscal Year 2023 Pay Increment Adjustment for Seasonal/Intermittent Contract Employees (Chiang-Smith)

ACTION: see above

- d) Resolution 22-18 Adoption of the Silver Spring Downtown and Adjacent Communities Plan (Margolies/Hisel-McCoy)
No discussion
ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Rubin to adopt Resolution 22-18
Seconded by Commissioner Verma
9 approved the motion
- e) Resolution 22-24 Adoption of the Potomac Overlook Historic District (Liebertz)
No discussion
ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Rubin to adopt Resolution 22-24
Seconded by Commissioner Verma
9 approved the motion
- f) Resolution 22-15 Re-Appointment of Peter Shapiro to the ERS Board of Trustees for the Term July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025 (Rose)
No discussion
ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Rubin to adopt Resolution 22-15
Seconded by Commissioner Verma
9 approved the motion
- g) Acknowledgment of the Re-Appointment of Sgt. Howard Brown as the Fraternal Order of Police Representative Trustee to the ERS Board of Trustees for the Term July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025 (Rose)
No discussion
ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Rubin to acknowledge re-appointment
Seconded by Commissioner Verma
9 approved the motion
- h) Acknowledgment of the Appointment of Lisa Blackwell-Brown as the UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO Representative Trustee to the ERS Board of Trustees for the Term July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025 (Rose)
No discussion
ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Rubin to acknowledge to appointment
Seconded by Commissioner Verma
9 approved the motion
- i) Hiring Incentives Report (Chiang-Smith)
In response to Commissioners' request last month for a detailed report on recent hiring initiatives, Executive Director Chiang-Smith presented to Commissioners a slide show enumerating several initiatives the M-NCPPC has pursued to fill the agency's 400+ vacancies.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Participated in Job Fair with Employ Prince George's attended by several thousand citizens
- Met with Casa de Maryland to establish an employment pipeline
- Implemented search for Spanish speaking Recruiter
- Met with MD Department of Labor regarding hiring Veterans, Returning Citizens, Youth, Senior & Refugee Hiring
- Met with Director of Prince George's Pathways regarding hiring Immigrants and Returning Citizens
- Met with WorkSource Montgomery
- Met with PMI Montgomery Chapter
- Spoke with State Director for Military and Federal Affairs regarding outreach to hire veterans
- Declared all positions as Hard-to-Fill, making them eligible for referral and sign-on bonuses
- Expanded Sign-on Bonus Program
- Expanded Referral Bonus Program
- Eliminated New Hire Salary Exception Analysis for Departments
- Creating Management Group Interview Panels

Commissioner Doerner asked how the agency might shorten the Referral to Interview Completion process, noting overall, that the start-to-finish length of the process of hiring an employee may be causing the agency to lose qualified candidates. Commissioner Bailey agreed. Executive Director Chiang-Smith said the figure in the chart of 35 days reflects the average time it takes the department to review the referred qualified candidate resumes/applications to select candidates for interview. She said CAS and Prince George's Planning Departments are tracking individual positions timelines to analyze what may be taking a longer amount of time and developing ideas on how to reduce them. She said this analysis could be shared with other departments. Commissioner Doerner supported the issue being examined. Executive Director Chiang-Smith said she would add the discussion to the upcoming Department Heads Meeting. Vice Chair Shapiro said the Prince George's County Department Directors have many ideas to share on additional pilot programs to consider.

- j) Resolution 22-25 Appointment of Debra S. Borden as Acting General Counsel (Gardner)
Commissioner Rubin noted the disparity between the title of the resolution listed in the agenda, "Appointment of Debra S. Borden as Acting General Counsel and General Counsel" versus the late delivery item title (reflected in these minutes). Chair Anderson said the title of the Resolution reflects the current action and will be discussing the permanent appointment in the coming months.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to adopt Resolution 22-25
Seconded by Commissioner Bailey
9 approved the motion

k) I-495/I-270 Managed Lanes Update (Borden)

Acting General Counsel Borden briefed Commissioners on the latest developments of this ongoing project, beginning with a brief summary of its history. Initiated in 2018, the State Highway Administration (SHA) and Federal Highway Administration initiated this study project to establish a Public-Private Partnership (P3) to consider the construction of improvements to the area in exchange for revenue from the improvements under a lease agreement. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the study to conduct Environmental Impact Statements to assess the impact different proposed improvements would have on the local environment and communities. M-NCPPC has been involved in the NEPA process as a Cooperating Agency and has provided substantial comments on the proposed project.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) is moving forward with a study area of the segment of I-495/I-270 from the American Legion Bridge up I-270 and ending at I-370. At this time, the SHA has announced it will not be moving forward with an Environmental Impact Study of the area from the I-495/I-270 interchange through the Prince George's County line (aka the "topside" of the beltway).

The remaining 17-mile study area still impacts certain parkland and in order to complete their NEPA process, the SHA will have to propose mitigation for the parkland they are impacting.

Under the M-NCPPC's regulations, while the acquisition of property can be approved by the appropriate planning board, the transfer of property must be approved by the full Commission. Acting General Counsel Borden said the MCPB recently recommended approval of the mitigation plan developed to address the impacted parkland. Staff is requesting approval of the plan and direction to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to codify all elements to negotiate and implement the plan, including details of land conveyance, technical details, park standards, expectations and formalization of procedural commitments. The MOU will contain deadlines for land to be conveyed to the M-NCPPC and the associated timeline for the M-NCPPC's land to be transferred to the SHA's right-of-way.

Commissioner Rubin commended staff for the job on this segment of the project which includes improvements to infrastructure, stormwater management, wildlife/pedestrian/cyclist passages and accommodations, and stream health quality. She also reminded Commissioners, staff, and the public that SHA has failed to address many of the concerns the M-NCPPC and other concerned parties have raised with the project over the past several years. She hopes the SHA will move forward to resolve them. This particular plan and agreement is a narrow discussion point and there will be opportunities to examine this in the mandatory referral stage.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Verma to approve the Managed Lanes Study Proposed Parkland Mitigation Plan Package and the implementation of the described MOU.

Seconded by Commissioner Doerner

9 approved the motion

ITEM 7

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

a) Late Evaluation Report (May 2022) (For information only)

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

No Report Scheduled

General Counsel's Report

b) Litigation Report (For information only)

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting from closed session at 10:59 a.m.



James F. Adams, Senior Technical Writer



Asuntha Chiang-Smith, Executive Director