



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

6611 Kenilworth Avenue • Riverdale, Maryland 20737

Commission Meeting
Open Session Minutes
October 20, 2021

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

PRESENT

Prince George's County Commissioners

Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Chair
Dorothy Bailey
William Doerner (arrived 10:02)
Manuel Geraldo
A. Shuanise Washington

Montgomery County Commissioners

Casey Anderson, Vice-Chair
Gerald Cichy
Tina Patterson
Partap Verma

Chair Hewlett called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

ITEM 1 APPROVAL OF COMMISSION AGENDA

No changes

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the amended agenda
Seconded by Commissioner Bailey
8 approved the motion (Doerner absent for the vote)

ITEM 2 APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Open Session – September 15, 2021

Closed Session – September 15, 2021

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the minutes
Seconded by Commissioner Bailey
9 approved the motion

ITEM 3 GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Open Enrollment (October 25 to November 11)
- b) Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- c) National Pregnancy and Infancy Loss Awareness Month
- d) National AIDS Awareness Month
- e) Hiring People with Disabilities Month
- f) National Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- g) National Stop Bullying Month
- h) Italian American, German American, and Polish American Heritage Month
- g) Chair Hewlett wished a happy birthday to Vice Chair Anderson

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

- a) Executive Committee Meeting – Open Session, October 6, 2021
- b) Executive Committee Meeting – Closed Session, October 6, 2021



- c) Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, July 13, 2021

ITEM 5

ACTION AND PRESENTATION ITEMS

- a) Resolution 21-24 Land Transfer to DPW&T over Piscataway Creek in Clinton, MD (Sun)

No discussion.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to adopt Resolution 21-24

Seconded by Commissioner Bailey

9 approved the motion

- b) I-495/I-270 Managed Lanes Study, Staff Recommendation: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Borden)

Deputy General Counsel Borden updated Commissioners on the I-495/I-270 Managed Lanes Study. In May 2021, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) announced it would only proceed with a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study on a single segment of the project area, from I-495 at the American Legion Bridge, through I-270, stopping at I-370. The study will not include improvements from I-495 east of I-270 through Silver Spring, nor the segment from the I-95/I-495 split in Prince George's County through to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

Since the study will only cover areas in Montgomery County, future briefings will be made directly to the Montgomery County Planning Board (MCPB). Comments and information briefings will be brought to the full Commission, but actions will be decided by the MCPB.

Deputy General Counsel Borden said with the recent retirement of Managed Lanes Project Manager Carol Rubin, at the request of the MCPB, she will take over. Director Wright thanked Deputy General Counsel Borden and said she was confident the agency was in good hands. Chair Hewlett thanked both Ms. Rubin and Deputy General Counsel Borden for the work they both have done, adding special thanks to Deputy General Counsel for stepping up to the project.

- c) Life Insurance Benefit Update for All Employees (Chiang-Smith/Spencer/McDonald)

Corporate HR (CHR) Director Spencer provided background to Commissioners on the unfortunate passing of several agency employees. The losses were compounded when it was learned these employees were not enrolled in the agency's life insurance benefit, leaving families, some with small children, without added financial security after such a loss.

To encourage a higher rate of insured employees, the M-NCPC will be adding this benefit to all employees through an automatic enrollment process. The Benefits Office negotiated with the plan provider to waive proof of insurability (typically only done with enrollment at the time of hiring). The increased cost to both agency and employee is minimal. Moreover, if an employee does not want the insurance, they may opt out.

Employees will still split 20% of the cost of the premiums, with the M-NCPPC providing 80%. CHR Director Spencer said both collective bargaining units agreed to the change, and the benefit will begin for newly-enrolled employees in January 2022.

Executive Director Chiang-Smith praised CHR Director Spencer and his team for conducting a successful negotiation with the provider, especially for the waiving of insurability. She commended Director Spencer and the management team for successfully coming to an agreement with the MCGEO and FOP collective bargaining units on this topic.



Chair Hewlett and Commissioners praised CHR Director Spencer and his staff, along with the bargaining team.

Chair Hewlett also stressed to everyone the importance of taking care of yourself and your health, particularly with the spread of breakthrough cases, even if a person is vaccinated. Employees were reminded to please remain careful. Getting a vaccine is not just about protecting yourself; it's about protecting your family, protecting your friends and colleagues, and protecting your community.

ITEM 8

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

a) Late Evaluation Report (September 2021) (For information only)

Secretary-Treasurer Report

No Reports Scheduled

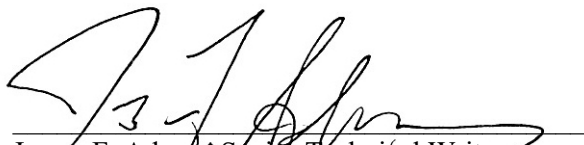
General Counsel Report

b) Litigation Report (For information only)

Pursuant to Maryland General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 3-305(b) (7) and (9), a closed session is proposed to consult with counsel to discuss personnel matters, to consult with counsel for legal advice, consider matters that relate to negotiation.

Chair Hewlett asked for a motion to move to closed session. Commissioner Geraldo moved, Commissioner Bailey seconded. All 9 Commissioners in attendance voted for the measure and the meeting moved to closed session at 10:19 a.m.

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Hewlett adjourned the meeting from closed session at 10:57 a.m.


James F. Adams, Senior Technical Writer


Asuntha Chiang-Smith, Executive Director

