



Commission Meeting
Open Session Minutes
March 15, 2017

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission met in the Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Auditorium in Riverdale, Maryland.

PRESENT

Prince George's County Commissioners
Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Chair (delayed arrival)
Dorothy Bailey
William Doerner
Manuel Geraldo

Montgomery County Commissioners
Casey Anderson, Vice-Chair
Norman Dreyfuss
Natali Fani-Gonzalez
Gerald Cichy
Marye Wells-Harley

ABSENT

A. Shuanise Washington

Vice-Chair Anderson convened the meeting at 9:57 a.m., in anticipation of Chair Hewlett's arrival.

Executive Director Barney made two changes to the agenda. Item #7, closed session Collective Bargaining, was moved to follow Item #5a, Resolution #17-02, Healthy Vending Requirements. Following that change, open session would take place to modify the appointment process for the Labor Relations Administrator (LRA) and the Arbitrator for the Fraternal Order of Police.

ITEM 1 APPROVAL OF COMMISSION AGENDA
ACTION: Motion of Geraldo with the amended agenda
 Seconded by Bailey
 8 approved the motion (vote taken before Chair Hewlett arrived)

ITEM 2 APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES
Open and Closed Sessions – February 15, 2017
ACTION: Motion of Bailey,
 Seconded by Geraldo
 8 approved the motion (vote taken before Chair Hewlett arrived)

ITEM 3 GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
Vice-Chair Anderson mentioned the following announcements:
a) Women's History Month Events
b) Upcoming One-Commission Diversity Event (May 3, 2017)

ITEM 4 COMMITTEE MINUTES/BOARD REPORTS (For Information Only)
Regular Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees Meeting – February 7, 2017

ITEM 5 ACTION AND PRESENTATION ITEMS

a) Resolution #17-02, Healthy Vending Requirements (Spencer/McDonald)

Health and Benefits Manager, Jennifer McDonald, presented a memorandum recommending support for the adoption of Resolution #17-02, Healthy Vending Requirements. The Resolution requires healthy food and beverage options in vending machines located on M-NCPPC property effective beginning with contract entered in or renewed on or after July 1, 2017. Ms. McDonald stated that Prince George's County has adopted standards for government facilities, and that Montgomery County recently proposed the same standards through Bill 1-17, which was introduced on February 7, 2017.

Ms. McDonald shared that a state-wide coalition of 300+ organizations was organized to promote local health regulations. She explained that a local ordinance was proposed last year to mandate standards for Prince George's County that would have affected the M-NCPPC offices/facilities located in that County. General Counsel Gardner and the Health and Benefits Manager McDonald consulted with the coalition to address the matter through an agency-wide policy (via a Resolution) that would obviate the need for local legislation that only covered one of the agency's regions. The M-NCPPC's vending managers, who were advised of the Healthy Vending Initiative, indicated support for the M-NCPPC Resolution.

Ms. McDonald introduced members of the coalition, Ms. Shawn McIntosh, Executive Director, Sugar Free Kids Maryland; attorney Eddie Pounds, on behalf of Sugar Free Kids Maryland; and Mr. Stuart Berlow, Director of Government Relations, American Heart Association. The Coalition members commended the M-NCPPC for considering the Resolution and shared background information supporting healthy vending strategies.

Commissioner Dreyfuss stated that sodas should not be included as a healthy product, and that he could not support the proposal as it is written.

Commissioner Geraldo voiced concerns with the permissibility of artificial sweeteners in healthy alternatives, and felt that the agency should not be promoting their use.

Also, Commissioner Doerner inquired about the following:

- How will changes affect vendors including minority businesses? The coalition members shared there was strong support from vendors for the change.
- To the coalition's statement that jurisdictions which have moved to 100% healthy food in vending machines have raised more money, Commissioner Doerner asked how product costs factored into revenue. The coalition members responded stating costs for healthy choices are on par with less healthy choices. The coalition added that customer demand for vending machine products also increased when healthy choices increased.

After further discussion, the Commissioners agreed to the following amendments to the Resolution:

- Recommendation of Commissioners Doerner and Geraldo: Amend Section III, Item (b)(1) Healthy Vending Contract Requirements, as follows: At least 65% of the food and beverage items offered in vending machines meet the requirements listed in Section I – Universal Vending Machine Requirements. At the end of a two-year period, the M-NCPPC will review the effects of the program. Depending on results of the assessment, and based on evidence, the agency will strive to increase to 65%, the healthy vending product requirements, and to not provide products with artificial sweeteners.
- Recommendation of General Counsel Gardner: Language in Section VI (b) of the proposal should be revised to state: Each Department shall monitor compliance and issue a report to the Commission on the first anniversary of this Resolution and at least every other year.
- Recommendation of Executive Director Barney: Amend Section III (b) - Add the following language: “The staff will come back with an assessment before the July 1, 2018 date”, so that Commissioners would have the information before this date.
- Recommendation of Vice-Chair Anderson: Change the language to Amend Section III (b) - M-NCPPC will strive for a higher goal, and on July 1, 2018, we will assess what that goal should be, with the idea of trying to increase the number, and address the artificial sweetener question. Staff should report back to the Commissioners with recommendations on what the target should be and what we should do about artificial sweeteners based on evidence.

Chair Hewlett commented that the M-NCPPC has a tremendous health and wellness program, and this initiative is another achievement for the agency. Ms. McIntosh shared that the coalition would like to have a press conference on this project in conjunction with efforts being made in Prince George’s County.

ACTION: Motion of Doerner to approve the Healthy Vending Resolution with modifications recommended by Commissioners Anderson, Doerner, Geraldo, General Counsel Gardner, and Executive Director Barney
Seconded by Fani-Gonzalez
8 approved the motion; Commissioner Dreyfuss opposed.

At 10:35 a.m., and pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(7) and (b)(9) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, a closed session was requested by Chair Hewlett, for consultation with counsel and to discuss collective bargaining issues or consider matters that relate to the negotiations.

ACTION: Motion of Fani-Gonzalez
Seconded by Wells-Harley
9 approved the motion

At 11:06 a.m., the meeting moved back into open session. At that time, Executive Director Barney requested a motion to modify the selection and appointment process for the Interest Arbitrator for the Fraternal Order of Police contract, and to delegate the appointment authority of the Labor Relations Administrator and the Interest Arbitrator to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission.

ACTION: Motion of Bailey
Seconded by Geraldo
9 approved the motion

ITEM 5 b) Resolution #17-04, Montgomery Bond Resolution (Zimmerman)

ACTION: Motion of Wells-Harley
Seconded by Fani-Gonzalez
9 approved the motion

c) Resolution #17-05, Proposed Bowie Annexation of Commission-Owned Property (Johnson)

ACTION: Motion of Fani-Gonzalez
Seconded by Wells-Harley
9 approved the motion

d) Readopt the Debt Policy to Reflect the New Citations Under the Land Use Article as Opposed to Article 28 (Zimmerman)

ACTION: Motion of Fani-Gonzalez
Seconded by Geraldo
9 approved the motion

e) Adoption of Park Rules (Gardner/Calcote)

ACTION: Motion of Doerner
Seconded by Geraldo
9 approved the motion

f) M-NCPPC LOGO

Commissioners Fani-Gonzalez and Wells-Harley presented a memorandum on moving forward with a review of the M-NCPPC logo. The memo was presented for Commission approval to develop a team to work together to create a new M-NCPPC logo that could be presented during the 90-Year Anniversary of the Commission. The team would consist of two members from each Department's Communications staff (four members from each County). Executive Director Barney recommended adding one member from bi-county offices, Senior Management Analyst Lisa Dupree. Chair Hewlett supported this recommendation.

Commissioners Fani-Gonzalez and Wells-Harley walked through the memo and explained the goals for the team, including designing up to three logos for review by the Commission. The team would have complete independence without interruption by Commissioners and Department Heads. The memo indicated drafts of the logos must be presented by the May17, 2017, meeting of the Commission. During the discussion of this item, Montgomery County Deputy Director Rose Krasnow requested that this timeline be extended to the June meeting of the Commission due to the busy schedule of the department's Communications team. The Commissioners supported the change in the due date.

If the Commission adopts a new logo, branding would be rolled out within a reasonable timeframe. Commission websites and social media would also be updated. Business cards and stationary would be updated immediately, while vehicles, uniforms, and signs would be phased in.

On a separate matter, Commissioner Wells-Harley suggested the agency prepare a written history of the organization, especially with the agency celebrating its 90th anniversary. Chair Hewlett shared that General Counsel Gardner has prepared a history of the M-NCPPC, and this can be used with updates.

ACTION: Motion of Wells-Harley to support the M-NCPPC logo project

Seconded by Geraldo

9 approved the motion

ITEM 6 OPEN SESSION – OFFICERS’ REPORTS

a) Executive Director

Employees’ Evaluations Not Completed by Due Date – (February 2017) (For Information Only)

Executive Office Building (EOB) Update (Not listed on the agenda)

Executive Director Barney noted that the EOB building team, which includes Commissioner Dreyfuss and Chair Hewlett, has met and will be presenting updates to the Commission. Chair Hewlett indicated that Commissioner Doerner will be replacing her on the Committee.

b) Secretary-Treasurer

1) Investment Report (January 2017) – (For Information Only)


c) General Counsel


1) Litigation Report (January 2017) (For Information Only)

2) Legislative Update

General Counsel Gardner stated that the Inspector General bill is moving forward with the M-NCPPC’s amendment(s). The bill was added to the Montgomery and Prince George’s County delegations. A standing committee hearing will be held this week and the bill is likely to move before crossover day, Monday, March 6th.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.


Gayla I. Williams, Senior Management Analyst/
Senior Technical Writer


Patricia Colihan Barney, Executive Director

