



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

6611 Kenilworth Avenue • Riverdale, Maryland 20737

Commission Meeting
Open Session Minutes
November 20, 2024

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission met in a hybrid format, from the Prince George's Parks and Recreation Administration Building Auditorium in Riverdale, Maryland and virtually via videoconference. The meeting was broadcast by the Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County.

PRESENT

Montgomery County Commissioners

Artie Harris, Chair
Josh Linden
Mitra Pedoeem

Prince George's County Commissioners

Peter A. Shapiro, Vice Chair
Dorothy Bailey
William Doerner
Manuel Geraldo
A. Shuanise Washington

NOT PRESENT

Shawn Bartley
James Hedrick

Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

ITEM 1 CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Harris moved item 1c to be taken in Section 5.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the amended Consent Agenda
Seconded by Commissioner Bailey
8 approved the items

ITEM 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Approval of Commission Minutes – Open Session
Special Meeting: 10/3/24
Regular Meeting: 10/16/24

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the 10/3/24 minutes
Seconded by Commissioner Washington
8 approved the item

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the 10/16/24 minutes
Seconded by Commissioner Doerner
5 approved the item
3 abstentions (Bailey, Doerner, Pedoeem)
2 absent (Bartley, Hedrick)

ITEM 3

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Thanksgiving and Employee Appreciation Day Holidays
- b) National American Indian Heritage Month (Maryland American Indian Heritage Day Nov 29)
- c) American Lung Cancer Awareness Month and Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month
- d) “Great American Smoke Out” Nov 21
- e) Military Family Appreciation Month
- f) Festival Of Lights and Winter Garden Walk through in Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties
- g) Upcoming One-Commission Holiday Event – December 6 at Largo HQ.
- h) Service Award Ceremony for Employees with 25+ Years Service (after Commission meeting)

ITEM 4

COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS

- a) Employees’ Retirement System Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes from October 1, 2024 (for information only)

ITEM 5

ACTION/PRESENTATION ITEMS

ITEM 1c. Resolution 24-25 Prince George’s County General Obligation Park Acquisition and Development Project Bond Series PGC2024A (Cohen)

Secretary-Treasurer Cohen requested approval for and provided background on the issuing of a \$22M general obligation tax-exempt bonds to support the Prince George’s County Parks system. While the form of the resolution is familiar, Mr. Cohen noted a change in Sections 8 and 11, regarding bonds to be sold in a private negotiated sale, wherein the Secretary-Treasurer can recommend a private placement memorandum. He said the M-NCPPC is currently soliciting competitive bids from various banks, with results due tomorrow, pending approval of the resolution. Direct placement of bonds provides savings in both time and cost. He noted direct placement of bonds such as this is not uncommon, adding if the rates are not competitive, we will cancel and issue a public bid in the spring.

Commissioner Doerner asked if we have any ethics and risk considerations to be aware of in a direct placement. Secretary-Treasurer Cohen said there is no specific conflict he is aware of. The RFP and solicitations are with large regional or national banks. General Counsel Borden said it is incumbent upon the Commissioners and Officers to disclose conflicts of interest in their annual financial disclosure, adding with this type of bond sale, there are several layers between the approving parties of the RFP decision-making and the actual sale, making such conflicts difficult and unlikely. Moreover, the individuals in question have the responsibility to make a conflict of interest disclosure, not the agency. Commissioner Doerner said conflicts might be better raised before the approval, not just when the Financial Disclosure is filed and suggested language be added, if appropriate, to the RFP that people in the decision making process state any conflicts of interest. Chair Harris said the Finance Department would look into doing so.

Commissioner Doerner also suggested having language regarding counter-party risk in the RFP. Secretary-Treasurer Cohen defined counter-party risk, and clarified the institutions that are involved with the RFP bidding are large national banks, and the contract that we’d enter would mitigate that risk.

Commissioner Doerner asked to restrict bidders to be domiciled locally. Secretary-Treasurer Cohen replied we don’t currently have that restriction, but it can be examined prior to the award tomorrow.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Washington to approve Resolution 24-25 with the provisions as mentioned by staff
Seconded by Commissioner Bailey
8 approved the item

a) Resolution 24-23 M-NCPPC Employees' Retirement System Employer Contribution (J. Harris/Cheiron)

M-NCPPC Employees' Retirement System Executive Director Jaclyn Harris requested Commission adoption of the proposed employer contribution of \$39,551,467 to help fund pensions for M-NCPPC retirees. Actuarial Consultant Patrick Nelson of Cheiron presented information included in the packet material, reviewed history, risks, economic assumptions, and benefit payment estimates and projections.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve Resolution 24-23
Seconded by Commissioner Pedoeem
8 approved the item

b) Resolution 24-24 FY2026 Employer Contribution for Retiree Group Health Insurance (115 Trust) (Cohen/Bolton)

Secretary-Treasurer Cohen introduced actuaries from Bolton Partners Actuaries to approve a contribution to the 115 Trust for retiree group health insurance for \$7,377,000. Representatives from Bolton Partners presented their actuarial report, as included in the packet material.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Washington to approve Resolution 24-24
Seconded by Commissioner Pedoeem
8 approved the item

c) Sustainability Committee Presentation (Carr/Sustainability Committee)

Sustainability Committee members Rachel Carr, Adrienne Thomas, Carl Morgan and Lauren Belle introduced the remainder of the team and presented from the material included in the packet. The presentation focused on Accomplishments, Challenges and Future focus for the different sustainability goals in each county.

Chair Harris thanked the presenters for their amazing and wonderful work. He noted and appreciated the Committee acting in concert across both counties, coordinating plan development and making a big impact on climate change in our counties. Vice-Chair Shapiro agreed and asked the committee to provide suggestions on how Commissioners could help with grants and partnerships. Ms. Belle said the Committee would need to identify the correct grants to apply for, but they would be thrilled to accept Commissioners' help, particularly with policies on EV and EV charging stations. Vice-Chair Shapiro agreed that there are broader national partnerships, federal funding that are available. Commissioner Geraldo agreed and also suggested considering partnerships with other utility agencies.

Commissioner Bailey commended the presenters on their presentation and urged them to continue engaging young people specifically.

ITEM 6 OFFICERS' REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

- a) CIO's Quarterly Report. (For Information Only)

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

No report scheduled

General Counsel's Report

- b) Litigation Report (For information only)
c) Legislative Update (Baucum-Colbert)

General Counsel Borden and Legislative Liaison Jordan Baucum-Colbert listed five bills to watch for during the current General Assembly session which were just posted on their website. She said she is not yet asking for a position on any of the bills, but for Commissioners to be aware of the bills' progress.

- MC/PG 117-25 Fairness in Zoning (High Priority)
- MC/PG 101-25 Montgomery County Planning Board and WSSC Open Meetings (High Priority)
- MC 5-25 Montgomery County -Task force on the Displacements of Residents of Emory Grove
- MC/PG 116-25 Montgomery County – Municipal Authority to Regulate Structures – Alterations
- MC 2-25 Montgomery County – Prohibited Restrictions on use – Accessory Dwelling Units

The General Counsel's office will come to the separate planning boards on a future date to solicit feedback and direction.

Chair Harris adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon.

James Adams, Senior Technical Writer

Tracey Harvin, Corporate Policy and Management
Operations Director, for
William Spencer, Acting Executive Director