



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

6611 Kenilworth Avenue • Riverdale, Maryland 20737

Commission Meeting  
Open Session Minutes  
September 18, 2024

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission met in a hybrid format, from the Parks and Recreation Administration Building Auditorium in Riverdale 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  
Shawn Bartley  
James Hedrick  
Josh Linden  
Mitra Pedoeem

Prince George's County Commissioners

Peter A. Shapiro, Vice Chair  
Dorothy Bailey  
Manuel Geraldo

NOT PRESENT

William Doerner  
A. Shuanise Washington

Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

ITEM 1

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of 9/18/24 Commission Meeting Agenda
- b) Resolution 24-20 Perpetual Access Easement to Prince George's County at Westphalia Central Park
- c) Controlled Substance Policy Definition Change (moved to 6d)

Chair Harris moved Item 1c, Controlled Substance Definition Change to the Actions/Presentations section, to be re-named Item 6d. Move closed session to the end of the meeting

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve items on the Consent Agenda as modified above.

Seconded by Commissioner Bailey  
8 approved the items

ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Approval of Commission Minutes – Open Session 7/17/24

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve the 7/17/24 minutes

Seconded by Commissioner Bailey  
8 approved the items

ITEM 3

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15)
- b) National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

ITEM 4 COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS

- a) Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes from July 2, 2024 (for information only)

ITEM 5 CLOSED SESSION (moved to end of meeting)

ITEM 6 ACTION/PRESENTATION ITEMS

- a) Combined M-NCPPC Wage Resolutions

- i. Resolution 24-15 Wage Adjustments for Employees Represented by the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Collective Bargaining Unit
- ii. Resolution 24-16 Wage Adjustments Passthrough for Park Police Command Staff and Candidates

Acting Executive Director Spencer presented the wage resolutions for the M-NCPPC's Park Police unit. Earlier this year, the Fraternal Order of Police declared an impasse on negotiations with the M-NCPPC. Negotiations proceeded to arbitration in late July which resulted in the arbiter finding in favor of the M-NCPPC, following agency's offer of a combined 7.0% increase (3.5% Merit / 3.5% COLA), similar to that of MCGEO and non-represented employees. Mr. Spencer asked for Commissioner's approval of the resolutions

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to approve Resolutions 24-15 and 24-16  
Seconded by Commissioner Hedrick  
8 approved

- b) Health and Benefits Rate Changes and Updates

Corporate HR Director Todd Allen introduced Benefits Manager Jennifer McDonald, who asked for Commissioners' approval on recommended rate changes for calendar year 2025, as described in the packet.

Commissioner Pedoeem noted the significant (21%) increase in prescription drug costs and asked for Ms. McDonald to explain the factors causing the increase. Ms. McDonald said there has been an increase in large claimants, an increase in stop-loss premiums and an increase in the use of GLP-1 drug types. There will be a program launched in October to examine prescribing GLP-1 benefits for employees using GLP-1 drugs for off-label use. Mr. Allen also noted a portion of the excess of the agency's fund reserve will be used to offset the premium increase and reduce it from 21.7% to 11.7%.

Commissioners Pedoeem and Hedrick voiced opposition to providing insurance for GLP-1 drugs for off-label use. Chair Harris said Benefits staff would examine alternatives for drug approval and present recommendations at the next meeting.

ACTION: Motion of Vice-Chair Shapiro to adopt the Benefits Rates Change Recommendation  
Second by Commissioner Geraldo  
8 in favor

- c) Central Administrative Services Budget Allocation (Bacote-Charles)

Corporate Budget Director Bacote-Charles requested Commission approval for recommended adjustments to the bi-county cost split among the operating departments. She reviewed information reflected in the packet and explained the primary cost drivers for changes to DHRM funding as an assessment of Human Resources actions (records, recruitment, etc.). She said the changes were due to Montgomery County Departments having a larger number

of recruitment and personnel actions in the past year than in previous years. She said the recommended adjustment, based on a rolling 3-year average of collected bi-county labor data, shifts approximately \$300,000 in funding costs from Prince George's County to Montgomery County.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to adopt the Budget Allocation Recommendation  
Second by Commissioner Bailey  
8 in favor

d) Controlled Substance Policy Definition Change (moved from 1c)

Corporate Policy Chief Michael Beckham and the Office of the General Counsel's Compliance Office Jessica Homer explained why the language of the agency's policy governing substance abuse should to be updated to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This is a minor change in the text of the Practice.

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to adopt the amended language as described in the packet  
Second by Commissioner Bailey  
8 in favor

ITEM 7

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

- a) Quarterly MFD Report (for information only)
- b) Quarterly Budget Transfers Report (for information only)

Secretary-Treasurer's Report  
*No report scheduled*

General Counsel's Report

- c) Litigation Report (For information only)

General Counsel Borden spoke briefly about the M-NCPPC's participation at the recent Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) conference in Ocean City. The M-NCPPC's booth was a resounding success. General Counsel Borden specifically thanked the Montgomery Parks' exhibit staff, led by Kristopher Yeh. Mr. Yeh led exhibit staff in both counties in preparing the exhibit and provided a terrific One-Commission showcase. She reported having a wonderful experience, talking with and meeting other staff, talking to elected officials, their staff, and many others in state government. There was much praise for the creativity of the booth design and the swag available to the conference attendees. She shared a picture montage of staff and visitors at the booth and enjoying the conference.

*Pursuant to the Maryland General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 3-305(b), (1), (9) and (14) a closed session is proposed to discuss a confidential personnel matter; to discuss before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process; and to consider matters relating to collective bargaining negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police bargaining units to preserve the Commission's negotiating position.*

ACTION: Motion of Commissioner Geraldo to enter Closed Session  
Seconded by Commissioner Bailey  
8 approved

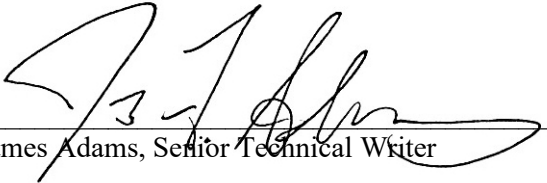
ITEM 5

CLOSED SESSION (moved to end of meeting)

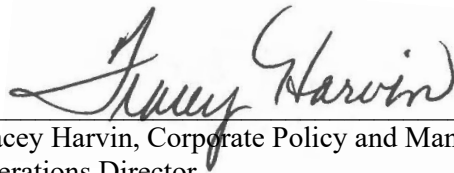
Closed Session began at 11:06 am, when Commissioners discussed a procurement matter which will be continued at a later meeting, after which General Counsel Borden requested the room and channel be vacated of all personnel besides Commissioners, the General Counsel and the Acting Executive Director before discussing and voting on a confidential personnel matter. As there were no questions related to FOP negotiations, there was no discussion regarding 3-305b(9). Closed minutes from 7/17/24 were also approved.

Open Session resumed at 12:57 pm

Chair Harris adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.



James Adams, Senior Technical Writer



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