

**MINUTES**  
**College Park City Council Worksession**  
**Tuesday, March 1, 2022**  
**Council Chambers**  
**7:30 p.m. – 10:06 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Wojahn; Councilmembers Kabir, Kennedy, Whitney, Adams, Rigg, Mackie and Mitchell.

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Esters.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kenneth Young, City Manager; Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Michael Williams, Economic Development Manager; Megha Sevalia, Student Liaison.

Mayor Wojahn opened the Worksession at 7:30 p.m.

**City Manager's Report:** Grant applications for City ARPA funds for hotels, travel and tourism will be released next week.

**Amendments To And Approval Of The Agenda:**

- Add proclamation for COVID Memorial Day to tonight's agenda, Mitchell/Mackie, 7-0
- Approve agenda as amended, Rigg/Kennedy, 7-0

**Mayor:**

- Moment of silence in support of the residents and elected officials of Ukraine.
- Congratulations to resident Mrs. Adams on her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 3.
- Proclamation for COVID Memorial Day.

**1. Discussion about a potential M-NCPPC community center in north College Park.**

**Guests: County Council Member Tom Dernoga; Michelle Garcia, Chief of Staff; Claire Worshtil, Lead Strategic Park Planner, PG Parks; Sonja Ewing, Assistant Division Chief, PG Parks, and Tanya Hedgpeeth, Planning Supervisor:**

Ms. Worshtil and Ms. Ewing gave an overview of the north College Park Community Center feasibility study that will begin next week and is expected to take 6 months. The consultant is WXY Studio.

- Task A is a demographic and needs analysis;
- Task B is internal focus groups and community meetings.
- Task C is site selection criteria;
- Task D is conceptual design proposal;
- Task E is cost estimates.

Council Member Dernoga discussed the length of time this has taken. He said there is an opportunity to jump start the program with an influx of funding in the coming fiscal year. The 21<sup>st</sup> Delegation has been in support of the project: Del. Barnes is seeking funding from the state. Council Member Dernoga will support funding from Park and Planning. He asked the City to consider what funding it can commit in FY'23, or if there is City-owned land the City can contribute. He discussed successful partnerships between P&P and other municipalities in the County. Pros and cons of regional centers vs. neighborhood facilities. The City should have a seat at the table in discussions with residents. He requested a letter from the City to County Council and Park and Planning that the City will partner with them on the project and help to jump start the funding. Very rough estimate of \$15M - \$18M. A partnership agreement would be developed and the City would be a stakeholder throughout the process.

Discussion: discussion of possible sites; needs outlined in the County's 2040 Plan; it is too soon to provide a good cost estimate; survey of adequate parcel sizes in the Region 2 service area; reminder that the facility would be open to everyone in the broader community, not just College Park residents; discussion of City contributing 10% of the estimated cost to build the building; reminder that the City doesn't have a recreation department and can't be involved in staffing/programming; discussion of ideas beyond recreation: arts, food service, social services – to be detailed during community discussions; idea of an intermediate step of renting space in the Hollywood Community Center?; finding a location for Meals on Wheels; advantages of a location near the YFS building; concern about precedent (if you want it to happen, you need to contribute 10%) and double-contribution situation (residents pay taxes to both City and M-NCPPC) if the City commits funds; what would our contribution be buying?; can Program Open Space funding be used?; location must be transit accessible; consideration for home schoolers and things we usually see at libraries such as computer resources.

Letter to agenda next week, interested in being a partner, some level of funding to be determined in the budget W/S.

**2. Discussion of a commemorative bench program – Robert Marsili, Director of Public Works:**

Mr. Marsili reviewed the PowerPoint. Discussion: Will there be a map on the website showing the sites that are available? What about the situation where the person to be memorialized is “problematic” and how will that be addressed in the policy? Once the bench is installed it becomes City property and the City would maintain it. Benches with artwork: cost is the same; artwork would be submitted with the application.

Bring this back to approve the policy.

**3. Consideration of Purchase of Cablecast Server for broadcast (suspend procurement procedures) – Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager:**

System supports closed captioning, but it is an added cost. Consent next week.

#### 4. Discussion of legislation:

Kennedy – Bill sponsored by Del. Solomon that would permanently allow students to be eligible for SNAP benefits if they are eligible for work study (not necessarily participating in work study), or if they have an Expected Family Contribution of \$0, or if they are receiving the maximum Pell Grant.

Kabir – Bill sponsored by Del. Carr on “don’t block the box” legislation.

Rigg – SB 871/HB 1259 Accessory Dwelling Unit Authorization and Promotion Act

*See Special Session minutes for action on:*

- 22-G-44 – Letter in Support of HB 1187/SB 726 Highway User Revenue
- 22-G-45 – Letter in Support of Climate Solutions Now SB 528
- 22-G-46 – Letter in Support of HB 1027 / SB 0921, food supplemental benefits, SNAP, college students.

#### 5. Request For / Status of Future Agenda Items:

Councilmember Kabir asked about issues pertaining to the security of the dog park after hours and support for the animal shelter when the ACO is off duty. Mr. Young responded that these are operational issues that can be handled by staff. Request for staff to follow up with Council on these issues.

Invite the County (DOE and Council Member Glaros) to provide an update on Calvert Hills Stormwater project, Adams/Rigg, passed 7-0.

Move the New Neighbors Homeownership Grant Program discussion from next week’s agenda to the following Worksession, Adams/Whitney, passed 7-0.

6. **M&C Comments:** Mardi Gras; Women’s History Month; Technology Literacy Workshop at City Hall on March 12; AARP Community Meeting on March 14; Tree Giveaway program; IFC/PHA clean-ups; Wojahn travel to Miami for USCM; sharing information on our use of ARPA funds with USCM; Kennedy and Mitchell will present at NLC Congressional Cities Conference in March.

7. Mr. Young said the City will show our support for Ukraine through lighting City buildings in yellow and blue.

**Adjourn:** Mackie/Adams, 10:06 p.m. passed 7-0.

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Janeen S. Miller  
City Clerk

Date  
Approved