

MINUTES
College Park City Council Worksession
Wednesday, May 4, 2022
7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Kenneth Young, City Manager; Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Robert Marsili, Director of Public Works; Brenda Alexander, Assistant Director of Public Works; Michael Williams, Economic Development Manager; Megha Sevalia, Student Liaison; Hayden Renaghan, Deputy Student Liaison.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Young said that paint supplies have been delivered to Paint Branch Elementary School and Friday Night Live starts next week.

Amendments to/approval of the Agenda:

- Kennedy/Mitchell: Reverse the order of items 1 and 2, passed 8-0
- Mitchell/Kennedy: Add these proclamations to next week's agenda: Asian American Pacific Islander Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, passed 8-0
- Adams/Esters: Add a proclamation for Building Safety Month to next week's agenda, passed 8-0
- Approve the agenda as amended, Whitney/Mitchell, passed 8-0

Discussion Items

1. **Discussion of possible amendments to Ordinance 21-O-09, the tree canopy protection ordinance: Brenda Alexander, Robert Marsili, members of the Tree and Landscape Board – John Lea Cox, Christine O'Brien, Todd Reitzel:**

The Mayor and Council discussed proposed revisions to the tree canopy ordinance with the Tree and Landscape Board. Staff and the TLB do not support the proposed revisions. They support the ordinance as it was introduced, without amendment.

- Agreed: Who decides desirability? It should be objective, not subjective.
- Agreed: Add Hardship provision.
- Agreed: Remove unnecessary provision based on Councilmember Whitney's comment (all permits for trees less than 36" will be approved.)

Straw Poll: Agreement on the following -

- Increasing fine for a violation to \$1,000 - Yes
- Make the ordinance effective July 1 - Yes
- Original ordinance with more restrictive for when a permit will issue (4)
OR Support amendment to provide a permit to issue regardless of whether conditions are met (3)
- Pruning? Add “live wood.”

Return with amended ordinance for consideration at next week’s meeting.

2. Discussion of Student Liaison and Deputy Student Liaison Stipend, and of adding a Graduate Student Liaison position:

Regarding the SL and DSL stipend: Current stipend deters some students from applying for the position. Estimate about 6 hours per week for each the SL and DSL. Each team may split the work differently.

On campus minimum wage is \$12.50, 40 meetings per year, 6 hours/week. Consensus to increase the stipend in the FY ‘23 Budget:

Student Liaison - \$3,600.

Deputy Student Liaison - \$3,000.

Comments: What does the UMD pay for student interns? Undergraduate research assistant? Change the language to be non-binary.

Regarding a Graduate Student Liaison and Deputy position: Many graduate students are married and have children; it’s a very different demographic. Stipending might work differently because some graduate students are prohibited from receiving stipends.

Set up a work group with GSG president, staff, and Mayor to determine the process for appointment, and amount and method of stipend, for a Graduate Student Liaison position, and return to Council.

ADJOURN: Motion by Councilmember Esters, seconded by Councilmember Mackie, passed 8-0, at 10:00 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk