

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council**  
**Tuesday, May 9, 2006**  
**8:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Milligan, Krouse, Catlin, Perry, Olson, Fellows, Hampton and Peña-Melnyk; Student Liaison Jesse Blitzstein.

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Joe Nagro, City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Sara Imhulse, Assistant to the City Manager; Steve Groh, Director of Finance; and Terry Schum, Director of Planning Department.

Councilmember Perry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Councilmember Krouse and seconded by Councilmember Hampton to adopt the minutes of the March 28, 2006 Regular Meeting, the April 18, 2006 Special Session, and the April 25, 2006 Regular Meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Olson and seconded by Councilmember Peña-Melnyk to withdraw the March 28 Minutes from consideration until the Council has had a chance to review them. This motion carried 8-0-0.

The Council adopted the Minutes from the April 18 Special Session and the April 25 Regular Meeting 8-0-0 without amendments.

**Announcements:**

Councilmember Krouse announced the North College Park Citizens Association will meet Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Davis Hall.

Councilmember Catlin announced the Lakeland Civic Association will also meet Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the College Park Community Center.

Councilmember Perry announced the Berwyn District Civic Association meets on the third Thursday at 8:00 at Fealy Hall.

Councilmember Olson announced Bike To Work Day on Friday, May 19, with the College Park Pit Stop from 6:30 – 8:30 a.m. at City Hall.

Councilmember Peña-Melnyk announced a day long seminar at IKEA for women entrepreneurs on writing your own business plan on May 16.

**Acknowledgement Of Dignitaries:** Emma Simson, new SGA President; Morgan Gale, Calvert Hills Citizens Association; Dave Turner, Chair of the County's Historic Preservation Commission, Dave Dorsch, Chair of the City's Landlord's Forum.

**Awards:** None

**Amendments To The Agenda:** Mr. Perry pulled 06-G-75 off the Consent Agenda for discussion tonight under Action Items.

**City Manager's Report:** Mr. Nagro announced the 2006 Citizen's Survey is on the City's Website under the Planning Department tab, and will be provided to Mayor and Council on CD-ROM. He further stated that WSSC is working in the Old Town area for the next three months on the ongoing project of replacing water mains and service connections.

**Student Liaison Comments:** Jesse Blitzstein commented on the Charrette presentation, and hopes the students' input will actually be taken into account, and that it can be updated next year. In response to a previous Council inquiry, he stated that the College Park Environmental Group cleans up Guilford Run on a monthly basis. He wanted the Council to know that apartment rents in other college towns are less expensive than those in College Park.

#### **Comments From The Audience On Non-Agenda Items:**

**Emma Simson, SGA President:** Introduced herself, and looks forward to working with the Council in the coming year.

**Morgan Gale, 7010 Wake Forest Drive:** The Calvert Hills and Old Town Citizens Associations met with developers of Commerce Bank, and asked if the traffic survey they presented can be posted on the City's website, to more broadly disseminate the information to the public. Mr. Nagro will discuss this with Staff and work with Mr. Gale on this request.

**Richard Thimijan, 6805 Dartmouth Avenue:** Discussed keeping the pedestrian rights-of-way open in the Old Town area, some are closed due to encroaching trees, others are closed due to "junk." Councilmember Olson requested staff to follow up off-line to determine exactly which areas he is referring to.

**Dave Dorsch, 4607 Calvert Road:** Recommended moving the jersey barriers that block the entrance to the City Hall parking lot from Knox Road to the other end of the parking lot at Lehigh Road.

**Alan Tyler, 7204 Bowdoin:** Believes double-wide curb cuts should be allowed in the City.

**Presentations:** None

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by Councilmember Catlin and seconded by Councilmember Hampton to adopt the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda consists of the following:

06-R-11: Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland Adopting The Recommendation Of The Advisory Planning Commission And Granting Variance Application Number CPV-2006-04, 5127 Lackawanna Street, College Park, Maryland For A Variance Of Fourteen Feet (14') From The Minimum Required Twenty Foot (20') Rear Yard Setback; A Variance Of Four And Three Tenths Feet (4.3') From The Minimum Required Front Yard Setback Of Twenty Feet (20') And A Variance Of Two Feet (2') From The Minimum Required Two Foot (2') Setback From The Rear Yard For Accessory Structures

06-R-12: Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland Adopting The Recommendation Of The Advisory Planning Commission And Granting Variance Application Number CPV-2006-05, 8703 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue, College Park, Maryland For A Waiver Of The Parking Area Requirements And A Variance Of 2.4% (139.8 Square Feet) From The Required Maximum Lot Coverage Of 30% (1,769.4 Square Feet)

06-G-76: Authorization to Contribute \$1,000 From Unused FY06 Community Service Grant Funds (Account 1010-25-20) to The College Park Meals on Wheels Program.

The Consent Agenda was adopted by a vote of 8-0-0.

**Action Items:**

**06-G-77 Approval Of Amendment Of Application For Historic District**

A motion was made by Councilmember Olson and seconded by Councilmember Fellows that the City Council approve the amendments to the historic district nomination and Old Town College Park Historic District Design Guidelines, and forward these documents to the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for consideration at its June 1, 2006 public hearing on the proposed Old Town Historic District.

Councilmember Olson read the comments into the record. Ms. Schum made introductory remarks. Close to three years have passed since the Nomination and Design Guidelines for the Old Town College Park Historic District were approved. During this time, various changes occurred in the proposed Historic District that required amendments to the documents. The amendments address technical corrections that were identified,

changes in conditions in the field, and some remarks that were raised during various public hearings, especially regarding the distinction between contributing and non-contributing properties. She reviewed the process that has taken place up to this point, and summarized the technical amendments to the inventory. With the amendments, the Old Town College Park Historic District consists of 295 properties, made up of 215 primary and 80 secondary resources. There are 154 contributing primary resources and 61 non-contributing resources. There are 57 contributing secondary resources and 23 non-contributing resources.

Councilmember Perry asked a question about 7507 Princeton Avenue, which burned down. The replacement house is no longer a contributing property.

Councilmember Catlin asked for a clarification about 7508 Dickinson, which has gone from non-contributing to contributing.

Ms. Schum noted another change: 4801 College Avenue is going from non-contributing to contributing.

Comments from the Audience on this item:

**Richard Biffi:** Read a letter into the record on behalf of the Old Town Civic Association in support of this motion. He further added his personal support.

**Dave Dorsch, 4607 Calvert Road:** Does not agree with adding secondary structures to the contributing inventory. This is not Mt. Vernon or Georgetown. It will be a hardship to have to get an historic permit to do work on these buildings.

**Karen Hantman, 1707 Kilborne Place, Washington DC:** There is an enormous headache and hassle factor when you live in an historic district and want to get any work done on your home.

**Lisa Miller, 11605 Twining Lane, Potomac, MD:** Wants a clarification of what “leniency” means? Has not seen the survey that the District Council was supposed to send out. 40% of properties are defined as non-contributing - that is a huge number. 60% is not a strong majority.

**Donald Kirsch, 3562 South River Terrace, Edgewater, MD:** Some historic houses shown in recent book are not in this historic district. This is disingenuous; Council is trying to intimidate and harass property owners. The survey they did showed most property owners do not want the historic district.

**John Hawvermale, Excalibur Lane, Sandy Spring, MD:** Asked for clarification about “leniency.” Wants a clear set of criteria. Why did the City carve out the Yale Avenue properties and Friends School? What will be the composition of the commission? Will any experts be hired? If so, how will that be funded?

**Andy Miller, 11605 Twining Lane, Potomac:** The survey done by the PGPOA showed 70% of homes in proposed historic district do not want the historic district, 15% are in favor, and 15% did not respond. Wants the Council to represent the majority.

**Morgan Gale, 7010 Wake Forest Drive:** Supports the application for an historic district. Believes it contributes to the character of the neighborhood, which is what attracts families. New structures being built in the area are unattractive.

**Mary Lou Miller, 4603 Knox Road:** Lives in the proposed historic area and is opposed to this designation and doesn't understand why she can't opt out.

**Kathy Bryant, 7406 Columbia Avenue:** Lives in the proposed historic area and is in support of this application. Believes it is not hard to make improvements to an historic property. Believes that without an historic district, she would have no property rights.

**Ann Morrison, 4601 Knox Road:** Lives in the proposed historic district and believes the designation should be up to the property owner and done on a case-by-case basis. Believes those who don't want their houses included should be able to say no and opt out. She would prefer that her house not be included in this district.

**Alan Tyler, 7204 Bowdoin Avenue:** Opposed to this designation. Believes it is hard to find qualified people who know how to make repairs under historic guidelines. Wouldn't be able to retrofit an historic property with sprinklers.

There were no comments from the Council on this item.

The motion carried 7-1-0, with Councilmember Perry opposed.

**06-O-03 Introduction of Ordinance 06-O-03, An Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland, Amending Chapter 175 "Taxation" By Repealing And Reenacting §175-1 "Rates", To Increase The Admissions And Amusement Tax From 4.5% To 7% For Theatre And Concert Charges.**

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry for the introduction of Ordinance Number 06-O-03. The motion was not seconded, and the Ordinance was not introduced.

**06-G-75 Approval of the Program Open Space Application for FY 2007 in the amount of \$638,793: \$319,396.50 for acquisition projects, and \$319,396.50 for development projects.**

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Krouse to approve the Program Open Space Application for FY '07, with the exception of the designation of the property to be acquired.

Councilmember Perry said he is opposed to the acquisition of the property mentioned in the application because it would take the property off the tax roles.

There were no comments from the audience on this item.

Councilmember Krouse moved to amend the motion to add back the designation of the specific property to be acquired. The amendment was seconded by Councilmember Milligan.

There were no comments from the audience on the amendment.

The amendment carried 7-1-0 with Councilmember Perry opposing.

The main motion as amended passed 7-1-0, with Councilmember Perry opposing.

#### **Council Comments:**

Councilmember Perry commented on what happened earlier in the meeting on the proposed A&A Tax Ordinance.

Councilmember Catlin announced a voluntary weeding project on the hiker biker trail in Berwyn and Lakeland will be held on Saturday May 20.

Councilmember Krouse expressed his concerns about the safety of the bike lanes on Rhode Island Avenue and commented on the letter received by the City from DPWT on this issue. This item will be placed on a future Worksession.

Councilmember Milligan commented on the College Park Boys and Girls Club annual Spring Sting Soccer Tournament and thanked individual volunteers.

Mayor Brayman said the proposed A&A Tax Ordinance will be on next week's Worksession to make sure everyone understands what it will and will not do.

**Comments From The Audience:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m. by a vote of 8-0-0.

---

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk