

MINUTES
College Park City Council Worksession
Tuesday, April 19, 2022
7:30 p.m. – 10:57 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; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Robert Marsili, Director of Public Works; Michael Williams, Economic Development Manager; Steve Halpern, City Engineer; Brenda Alexander, Assistant Director of Public Works; Jim Miller, Parking Enforcement Manager; Megha Sevalia, Student Liaison; Hayden Renaghan, Deputy Student Liaison.

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

Amendments To And Approval Of The Agenda:

- Add proclamation for “Earth Month 2022,” Whitney/Mackie, 8-0
- Add Special Session, 22-G-72, Letter to our federal representatives in support of S. 2981 an H.R. 3172, The HELPER Act, Mitchell/Adams, 8-0
- Approve the agenda as amended, Mitchell/Esters, 8-0.

Mayor Wojahn read the Proclamation for Earth Month 2022

1. Presentation on the Food Scrap Collection pilot program – Robert Marsili, Director of Public Works. Mr. Marsili reviewed the PowerPoint and the many benefits of this program. We hope to start in July or August. Collection day is not yet determined. In the future, may consider collaboration with nearby municipalities. Collection company will change the bags when they collect. We will keep the existing drop off program as well. Need for education on this subject – how to make it convenient. Can the people who are enlisted in the program get a discount on compost?

Decision points: should the City subsidize some of the cost of the cart and/or container? Yes, 50% subsidy for the first year, and possibly extend it further – discuss at next budget Worksession.

2. Quarterly update on the Strategic Plan – Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager:

Review of the PowerPoint. Interest in furthering the education objective. Interest in annexing an area on Adelphi Road or purchase of land to remain as open space. Goal that Accela go public on July 1.

3. Discussion of Ordinance 21-O-09, the tree canopy protection ordinance – Brenda Alexander, Assistant Director of Public Works:

Ms. Alexander reviewed the history of this topic and the work of the Tree and Landscape Board in support of tree canopy preservation.

Ms. Alfred, Chair, TLB: proud of the work of the TLB and how they have responded to the request by Council to look at ways to preserve the City's tree canopy. The next logical step is to implement the ordinance that will help save the current trees.

Discussion of differences between the staff recommendation and the recommendation of the TLB - can we find a middle ground? Do we have staff capacity at present to implement the ordinance? No - Mr. Young thinks it would take additional staff. Benefits of doing another Tree Canopy Assessment in FY 23 (updated and more detailed data) and of an urban tree master plan (suggested by M-NCPPC – enables us to approach developers and gain access to grant funding). Discussion of the work of Casey Trees and possible collaboration. Is it possible to implement some portion of the permitting plan immediately, such as for heritage trees? Move Phase 3 items up front (being done). Discussion of a program that helps residents with the tree planting - about \$300/tree just for planting, then follow-up maintenance is also needed. Difficulty finding areas in the City for planting. Explanation for the 20% pruning permit requirement. How were the permit fees and fines developed? Having a permitting process provides the City with data that we would not otherwise be able to get. Reminder of the City's strategic plan goal of increasing tree canopy by 2025 vs. the loss of 8,000 trees last year. Its not just replacement planting – we need to protect the mature trees that are being lost now. It will take 30 years for a new tree to become part of the canopy. Residents' fear that their right to govern their property is being taken away.

Interest in approving the full ordinance now with understanding that it may take time to implement: Rigg, Kennedy, Esters, Whitney.

Support of staff recommendation: Mitchell, Mackie.

Adams and Kabir: Move forward with something now, but not what's on the table. Put his ideas in writing.

Bring back for further consideration at the May 4 Worksession. Councilmembers with ideas for tweaks are urged to speak to their Council colleagues and staff with their ideas.

4. Discussion of parking in the 4700 block of Cherokee Street, to include results of traffic studies, options for permit parking, and a possible parking prohibition:

[10:30 p.m., motion to extend the meeting, Kabir/Kennedy, 8-0.]

Has staff been in touch with the developer telling them of the parking complaints of the Townhouse owners because the multi-family building was not built? Not that we know of.

- Proceed with Parking prohibition: on consent next week.
- Proposal for permit parking: schedule a public hearing, mail notices and advertise.

5. Discussion of comments on the M-NCPPC budget

- North College Park Community Center – no funding in CIP. Waiting for results of feasibility study – thank them for progress made on feasibility study and urge funding to move forward.
- Hollywood Park – anticipate it will be in the upcoming work plan for design and cost estimates.
- Lakeland Community Center – not in CIP – request
- Bridge Connection and sidewalk Northeast Branch trail on Old Calvert Road – partly funded through developer contributions – reiterate request
- Lighting on trails – they are looking into but nothing concrete. Reiterate request
- Lakeland Community Park – request funding for updated playground equipment, multi-generational fitness course like the one in Hyattsville.
- Commission staff will meet with County Council in a couple of weeks.
- Netting around court at Sunnyside Skateboard Park
- Should we ask M-NCPPC to help us identify locations for VeoRide parking
- ADA Accessible Gazebo in College Park Woods Park

Letter on Consent Next week.

6. ADD ITEM: Special Session to consider The Helper Act. *See Special Session Minutes for Agenda item 22-G-72.*

7. Agenda items for the April 28 Four Cities Meeting:

- Discussion about FBI
- Modified Mufflers and Speeding Cars
- Update on Greenbelt Road improvements
- Discussion of Food Scrap Composting

8. Requests for/Status of Future Agenda Items

Student Liaison Selection Committee – on Consent next week.

9. Council Comments

Calvert Hills Civic Association Meeting, Maryland Day, Arbor Day.

Adjourn: Rigg, Kabir, 10:57 p.m. 8-0.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk