



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of April 6, 2016

Information to Share

Zika Virus

Emergency Manager Ron Hardy and Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite attended a meeting with Montgomery County officials today. The County is setting up an all-inclusive website about the Zika Virus. It should be up by May 1. There will be follow-up meetings over the next few weeks. As reported before, residents should take precautions to avoid mosquito bites; precautions are identified on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/zika. Recognize that the virus can also be spread by sexual contact.

Call-in Option for Public Comment at Council Meetings

Staff is looking into options for meeting a request for a call-in option for residents and other stakeholders who wish to make public comments during Council meetings but cannot attend in person. While a live call-in option presents some logistical challenges, we may be able to meet the interest by allowing people to call a number where they can leave a recorded message to be played during the public comment period of meetings. We will share more as we learn how to accommodate this.

Takoma Junction Development Agreement Process

The Takoma Junction Development Agreement process continues to progress. We understand that representatives of the Co-op and NDC met last week and we are hopeful they will come to an agreement later this month or in early May. The City's development attorneys have completed a redrafting of the development agreement based on discussions with Council, which staff is in the process of reviewing. We will share additional information with the public as we are able.

Montgomery County 311

Montgomery County has been trying to address the problem of residents near the Prince George's County border dialing 311 from their landline phone and getting the Prince George's County 311 system, not Montgomery County's system. They have added an option to press 1 for Montgomery County and 2 for Prince George's County.

They want to know how it works. I know they are unhappy about how the message sounds and they'd like to re-record it.

TLC Transportation Grant Applications

Applications for technical assistance through COG's Transportation Planning Board's TLC program were submitted for the following projects:

- a) Conceptual plan for the redesign of Maple Avenue as a Complete Street; and
- b) Preliminary engineering (30% design) with cost estimates for the establishment of a low-stress bikeway on New Hampshire Avenue frontage roads.

Technical assistance recipients are eligible to receive technical assistance between \$30,000 and \$60,000 for planning projects, and up to \$80,000 for design projects. Recipients do *not* receive direct financial assistance. Technical assistance is provided by consultants who are contracted on an individual project basis.

WAU Spring Service Day

As part of the Anti-litter Initiative, Washington Adventist University Students could be spotted all over town TODAY in yellow shirts marking their Spring Service Day. University students and staff spent the morning producing 16 bags of trash and 12 bags of recycling pulled from Sligo Creek and Brashears Run. Yellow shirts were also spotted helping City Gardener Mike Welsh remove invasive plants from City trees and gardens.

Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5K Challenge (TKPK5K)

It's 19 days until RACE DAY (May 1). To date, the Race Committee has raised over \$11,500 in sponsorships and in-kind donations with roughly \$7,000 in race revenue. Over 1,400 registrants are expected for this, the 8th year of the challenge (357 registrants to date). Involved in one aspect or other of the event are staff from the following departments: HCD, Public Works, Recreation, Finance and the Police.

Kudos

Kudos to Dave Burbank and Karen MacPherson – Yesterday, Karen and Dave from the Library conducted a class for William and Mary College students via Skype on the history and development of graphic novels. The graphic novel genre has become increasingly popular in public libraries. Dave is a recognized expert in graphic novels in the DC Metro area. It's wonderful that Dave and Karen conduct classes on graphic novels at different venues several times a year, bringing even more acclaim to the Takoma Park Library.

Other groups that they have they have presented to include: College of Information Sciences graduate students at the University of Maryland, Montgomery College advanced seminar for visual arts students, Montgomery County Public School in-house training for teachers and media specialists, and Eastern Middle School parents night. They also hold Comics for Parents and Educators programs here at the Library. Dave has been a panelist on Comics in Libraries at the Small Press Expo convention for independent comics producers in Bethesda.

My Schedule

I will be away May 13-17.

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