



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of May 11, 2016

Follow Up to Questions from Last Council Meeting

May the City plant trees on private property?

Per the City Attorney's Office, it is indeed legally permissible for the City to plant trees on private property.

Will any public property be affected by WSSC work along Little Eastern?

There will be water line installation for the WSSC project on Little Eastern, which is proposed in the street and is City right of way. There may also be access and connection work for the sewer associated with this work. For the block with residents who agreed to grinder pumps, there will be a sewer line in the street, which would be on public right of way.

Information to Share

Community Center and Recreation Center Lockdown

As you are aware, the Community Center and Recreation Center went on lockdown last Friday afternoon, as there was an active shooter situation in Montgomery County in which two people were killed. The lockdown lasted slightly less than an hour and was lifted shortly after the County lockdown was lifted on nearby schools. Staff acted in accordance with our All Hazards Plan, and will be debriefing later this week to discuss lessons learned from the incident.

Agenda Item Cover Sheets

As you will immediately notice when you receive your agenda packets, we will be transitioning to a new cover sheet for Council meeting agenda items beginning next week. We are making the change in response to Council's request to add an Environmental Impact Statement to agenda items, to include a section that specifies the Council Priority associated with the items, to be consistent with new staff-level City design standards, and perhaps most importantly, so that the documents are more consistent with ADA best practices from an optical reader standpoint.

Police Department Mutual Aid Agreements

After a productive meeting with representatives of the Metropolitan Police Department of DC, a mutual aid agreement was drafted and is currently under review by MPDC and City staff. The Police Chief has initiated discussions with the Police Chief of Prince George's County about an agreement. We will let the Council know if we get to a point where we believe your assistance could be beneficial in moving things forward.

Homicide Investigation

The investigation of the homicide that occurred on Houston Avenue on April 27th continues to progress as the Police Department is receiving the results of forensic evidence from the lab. Additional information will be provided to the public as appropriate once the results have been analyzed.

Decrease in Burglaries

The City has seen a decrease in burglaries in recent weeks. We believe this may be due to some arrests that were made of suspects who may have been connected with previous burglaries.

National Police Week

Sunday began National Police Week. During the week, agencies around the area host police memorial services to commemorate the service of those officers killed in the line of duty. The week culminates with the National Peace Officers Memorial Service on the West Lawn of the US Capitol. The Takoma Park Police Department Honor Guard represents our City at many of these events.

Takoma Park Library in DCPL Bike Tour

As part of Bike Month, this Saturday, May 14, DC Public Libraries will conduct their annual bike tour of area libraries, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The tour will include the Takoma Park Library, as well as the Takoma DC branch, Shepherd Park, Silver Spring, Chevy Chase and Tenley-Friendship. Between 50 and 60 riders are expected to participate.

Kudos

Kudos to Mike Welsh, City Gardener, and the neighborhood volunteers led by Wayne Sherwood for their work over the weekend cleaning up the Grant Avenue berm area (the stormwater gardens) behind the Community Center. It looks great!

I would also like to extend kudos to Keith Kozloff, Katerina Maltseva, Colleen Clay and other volunteers for their hard work to put on last Saturday's Volunteer Fair, in coordination with the Lifelong Takoma program. There were 21 non-profits that had tables at the event and about 100 attendees, all potential new volunteers in the area.

My Schedule

I will be out of the office on May 12-17.

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Carroll Avenue Bridge Update

Current Work:

The installation of the pedestrian bridge is underway and all of its associated pathways and lighting.

The contractor is currently performing extensive spawl repair on the existing arches of the bridge. Sunday closures of the Parkway are the result of this work.

Construction of the demolition shield - the steel structure under the bridge - is continuing. This work is being done in conjunction with the installation of the pedestrian bridge.

The detour traffic signal work is nearly complete and we expect the signals to be active before the actual detour starts. SHA wants the commuting public to be aware of the lights before the detour route is live. They will blink for a period of days before the sequence goes live.

All SHA detour notice and signs are in place and covered.

Looking Ahead:

The additional signage that the City has agreed to install will be installed the last week of May. The signs will be covered until just prior to the bridge closure.

Construction of the new sidewalk along Sligo Creek Parkway between Old Carroll and Jackson is expected to start in mid-May. This work is being done by the City and its contractor.

To date, we have had good experience with responsiveness on the part of the SHA and the contractor when minor issues have come up. Additionally Kiewit, the construction contractor, was helpful in accommodating the Takoma Park 5k race route through the site.

The contractor *expects* to close the bridge to vehicle traffic on **June 13th**, though pedestrian restriction may occur sooner. Please be advised that aside from the typical uncertainty of weather, many other factors may result in closure delays. For example, several of the utility companies have not yet completed the relocation of their infrastructure on the newly installed PEPCO poles. We understand that SHA is working actively to resolve the issue.

With regard to the initial report of the need to perform night time demolition, at this time it appears that SHA and the contractor are reevaluating the need and may ultimately decide not to pursue it. The benefits of a night closure include longer work hours and fewer traffic impacts. However, it is also difficult to work at night and we expect that the impact from noise to the surrounding community would be significant. When the demolition of the portion of the bridge over Sligo Creek Parkway is done, it will require the closure of the Parkway in addition to the existing closure of the bridge. The intended detour route for that situation will be the same one used for the previous steel beam delivery and will include Old Carroll, Carroll, Lincoln and Maple Avenue.