



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of June 22, 2016

Information to Share

City Bicycles

We recently received four 21-speed bicycles – complete with cargo racks, flashing lights, baskets, and helmets – for use by City staff during the work day. Two will be located at Public Works and two outside of the Police Department entrance at the Community Center. In addition to promoting employee wellness, we hope to be a bit greener when commuting to and from meetings at City facilities.

Zika Outreach

Last week, Emergency Manager Ron Hardy and I were informed that an area around Piney Branch and Flower Avenue would be the focus of outreach to residents and businesses to help them protect themselves from mosquitos that could transmit the Zika virus. Ron Hardy accompanied staff from the Montgomery County Health Department and Department of the Environment in going door to door in the area. The outreach was well-received, some small areas of standing water were addressed and there does not seem to be a continuing problem for concern. Nevertheless, good planning by the various State, County and Takoma Park agencies led to a well-run monitoring and outreach effort. All residents are urged to continue to inspect their yards on a weekly basis through the summer and dump out water that could be attractive to mosquitos.

Carroll Avenue Bridge Update

Although we don't have a date yet on when the Carroll Avenue Bridge will be closed for renovation work, the pedestrian bridge is now open and traffic signals for the detour routes will begin blinking on July 7 and are to be activated on July 18.

Committee Interest in City Banking and Investing Practices

Last week, I met with the City's Nuclear Free Committee to answer questions they had about the City's banking and investment practices. There is interest from both this group and the Committee on the Environment to look into ways that might adjust the City's financial practices to better meet the goals of their respective groups. There are limits as to what can be done, depending on the type of account and the federal, state or local laws that govern them, but there may be areas where other choices could be made. It is likely that recommendations may come to the Council in the fall from one or both

committees. The subject is quite complex, with legal, moral and practical aspects to take into consideration.

Follow-Up from Last Council Meeting

Potholes

The pothole that Councilmember Qureshi reported a near the entrance of the Community Center rear parking lot has been repaired. The pothole that Councilmember Male reported on Route 410 and Sycamore has not yet been repaired, though SHA and WSSC are very much aware of the issue. In inquiring about the issue, we learned that some private plumbing work damaged a water line that contributed to the creation of the pothole. WSSC expects the contractor to repair the water line and does not intend to “permanently” fix the pothole until they are satisfied with the repairs. In the meantime, City staff has formally requested additional temporary patch maintenance.

Kudos

Kudos to the City staff involved in planning and coordinating the Community Conversation on Youth Success, which was held on Saturday. Staff from the Recreation Department, Police Department, Library, Communications/City TV, and the Manager’s Office, in addition to several Councilmembers and area youth, were instrumental in making the event a success. Despite being held on a beautiful Saturday afternoon, there were still around 80 people who attended the event and participated in the conversation.

My Schedule

I will be with the Council at the Maryland Municipal League Convention in Ocean City from June 26 to 29 and then plan to be off July 18-22 and August 8-19.

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