



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of September 28, 2016

Follow up from Last Council Meeting

Speed Humps on Ritchie

A resident expressed concern about the lack of speed humps on Ritchie Avenue, and there was interest from Council in receiving information about the issue. The speed humps that used to be located on the street were actually removed at the request of the neighborhood as part of the Ritchie Avenue traffic calming installation. The new traffic calming measures – a circle and bump-outs – were installed in response to the Sligo Park Hills traffic restrictions. Due to the steepness of the hill, speed humps are technically not acceptable on the street due to engineering standards. For that reason, the City would not reinstall them. Thus, we recommend refraining from pursuing a petition to do so.

The concerns raised, however, about sight lines and speeding are important and can be addressed in other ways. I am asking our Police Department to evaluate the situation and do increased enforcement. If trimming of vegetation is needed by either the City or property owner, we will follow up.

Status of Sligo Mill Overlook Playground

The City continues to work with MNCPPC to arrive at an agreed upon set of design drawings for the playground. Our design consultant is currently working on the fourth set of revisions based on scrutiny from MNCPPC of previously submitted designs. While we will continue to go through the processes as expeditiously as possible, we expect it will continue to take more time to get to a final, mutually-agreed upon design and commence construction.

Overgrowth of Trees on MNCPPC Property

Councilmember Qureshi noted that there were trees on the Sligo Mill Overlook Park property, which is owned and maintained by MNCPPC, that were impeding onto a neighboring property. We have reported the issue to MNCPPC. For future reference, issues of this nature can be directly reported by residents to MNCPPC by calling the Montgomery Parks Service Center at 301-670-8080.

Tree Trimming on Ritchie Avenue

Councilmember Seamens noted that he and others thought the recent tree trimming on Ritchie Avenue and possibly other locations around the City were more aggressive than necessary. Staff concurs and we have been closely monitoring the contractor's work. In fact, after what staff viewed as particularly egregious trimming, we requested that the project manager responsible be removed from the job and he was removed.

Replacement of Bus Shelter at Poplar and New Hampshire

Last week's City Manager report included information on the possibility of an additional bus shelter in front of Victory Tower, which led to a question from Councilmember Male about replacement of the bus shelter that was once located at Poplar and New Hampshire. Per HDC staff, this location is actually at the top of the priority list for new shelters. The same issue noted last week – SHA revising their permitting process for bus shelters in their rights-of-way – has impeded progress on replacement of this shelter as well. We will continue to push for resolution in the matter.

Information to Share

Neighborhood Services Team Supervisor

Within the next week or so we will be advertising for the new code enforcement position, which will be called the "Neighborhood Services Team Supervisor" and have an emphasis on environmental code education and enforcement.

International City County Management Association (ICMA) Conference

Both the Deputy City Manager and I have just returned from the annual ICMA Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Topics included building strong police/community relations, effective communications and customer service, in addition to traditional management topics on economic development strategies, new technologies, leadership and ethics.

Kudos

Kudos to the Takoma Park Police Department officers and staff for their efforts in making the Unity in the Community a very successful event. Although I was not able to attend due to my attendance at the ICMA Conference, all accounts I've heard have been overwhelmingly positive. I would like to extend a special thanks to **Captain Collington** for his work and partnership in planning for and helping to organize the event, to **Chief Goldberg** for his support of the efforts, and also to the following officers and staff, who contributed towards the event's success: **Captain Frishkorn, Captain Bowers, Sgt. Gilbert, Sgt. Erwin, Sgt. Poole, A/Sgt. Pedersen, Det. Cpl. Butler, Cpl. Rodriguez, Det. Cpl. Wolff, Cpl. Black, Cpl. Robison, Pfc. Hubley, Pfc. Goldin, Pfc. Sims, Pfc. Elfadl, Pfc. Garrison, Pfc. Muzzatti, Ofc. Barth and Ofc. Santos, Ron Hardy, Crime Analyst Artero, CG James, CG Saxton, Admin Clerk Coles, PEO Coordinator White, Disp. Supervisor Gallop and Admin Clerk Flores.**

Suzanne R. Ludlow, AICP CPM
City Manager, City of Takoma Park
SuzanneL@takomaparkmd.gov
301-891-7229