



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

Acting City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of June 21, 2017

Follow Up to Last Council Meeting

Stop Signs at Flower and Maplewood

Councilmember Smith requested that staff reinstall the temporary stop signs placed at Flower and Maplewood during the Carroll Ave Bridge detour. The signs have been installed. As the Flower Ave Greet Street project commences, Public Works staff will be working with our engineering consultants to determine whether and where it might make sense to have additional signage.

Potholes in Library Parking Lot

Councilmember Seamens asked when the potholes in the Library parking lot would be repaired. Staff evaluated the damage and determined that temporary patching would not “stick” effectively and could actually make the situation worse. Properly addressing the issue will require reconstruction and resurfacing, which we cannot perform in-house. The entranceway to the Library will be on the top of the list for our resurfacing contractor when FY18 funds become available.

Reported Tripping Hazards

Councilmember Seamens reported tripping hazards on the sidewalks in the vicinity of 117 Ritchie and 7620 Maple. The sidewalk repair and maintenance contractor is currently doing work in the City and these locations are now included in the contractor’s punch list.

Parking Spaces between Crosswalk and Driveway near Maple and Ritchie

Councilmember Seamens noted that when the crosswalk at the intersection of Maple and Ritchie was moved to the north side of the intersection, that a safety issue was inadvertently created because when vehicles are parked in two parking spaces located between the crosswalk and a nearby driveway, it makes it more difficult for drivers to spot pedestrians entering the intersection and for pedestrians to see oncoming vehicles. Public Works staff will be installing No Parking signs in the appropriate places, likely at some point in mid-to-late July.

Deer in Takoma Park

Councilmember Kovar noted a concern about the deer population in Takoma Park, particularly in Montgomery County parks within and abutting the City. The County has long recognized this issue, and actually has a website dedicated to deer management:

http://old.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/Natural_Resources_Stewardship/Living_with_wildlife/deer/DeerManagement.shtm. The website includes information on the County’s Comprehensive

Deer Management Plan and copies of the Deer Management Annual Report and Recommendations, including the latest FY 2017 report. The report provides up-to-date deer-impact data and a list of recommendations for the upcoming year. Recommendations are

implemented as appropriate by County, State, and Federal agencies, as well as private landowners where applicable.

Information to Share

Community Survey – Police Chief

Earlier this week, we launched a survey to give members of the community an opportunity to share their thoughts on the preferred qualities and characteristics of the next Police Chief. In addition to rating and ranking the relative importance of a number of attributes, there is also opportunity to provide open-ended feedback. The survey can be completed at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XKNQDN3>.

ADA Sidewalk Repairs on Cedar Begin Next Week

Sidewalk work is being finished up on Poplar Ave and Spring Ave, and the contractor will soon move on to Cedar Ave. In the past, this work has generated a lot of questions and concerns, including issues related to concrete color and finishing. One important thing to note is that the pavers currently on Cedar that make up the sidewalk on a section of Cedar from Tulip to Birch Ave will not be replaced with concrete. However, to avoid the current problem of settling, we plan to lay them on a concrete base.

Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan

The Housing and Community Development Department will be holding a listening session on Wednesday, June 23 at 7:30pm in the Community Center Auditorium. The session is intended to provide community members with an opportunity to provide input on local housing and economic development conditions and programming. We will be hosting a concurrent Facebook Live discussion that evening for community members who are unable to attend in person, or for audience members who would like to comment online during the discussion. Tune in to see what your neighbors are saying and submit your comments: <https://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/>.

Staff Attendance at HAND's Annual Meeting and Housing Expo

Yesterday, members of the Housing and Community Development team attended the Housing and Non-Profit Developer (HAND) membership organization's Annual Meeting and Housing Expo at DC's Omni Shoreham Hotel and Conference Center. This event is the premier convening of housing and community development administrators serving the District, Maryland, and Virginia. This year's conference explored the theme "Beyond Gentrification, Toward Equitable Communities" and was attended by over 1,400 industry professionals. The presentations around the changing racial and economic landscape in the metro area gave HCD staff insights into how other practitioners measure equity in the communities they serve around the DC region.

Hiring Update

Open positions include PW Sanitation Driver and HCD Planning Intern. We expect to begin advertising for a new Police Chief in July.