



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of November 15, 2017

WELCOME NEW COUNCILMEMBERS!

Information to Share

Opening of Sligo Mill Overlook Playground and Winners of Car Free Challenge

This Saturday, November 18th there will be a celebration of the opening of the new Sligo Mill Overlook Playground. The celebration will begin at 11:30am at the playground site.

Car Free Challenge Celebration

Also on Saturday, November 18th we will be recognizing winners of the Takoma Park Car Free Challenge with a celebration lunch at noon at Denizen's Brewing Company in Silver Spring. An invitation went to participants of the challenge and RSVPs were due on November 10th.

Acting Police Chief Rotation – Captain Collington

As of November 12th, Captain Tyrone Collington is serving as the Acting Police Chief. Once again, Captain Frishkorn did an excellent job over the past two months and I thank him for his ability and willingness to step into the role for a second rotation.

New Fast Charging Station

After surveying locations with Pepco and the Electric Vehicle Institute we have determined that 7000 Carroll Ave. is the most suitable location for an additional fast charging station. The exact location will be the existing single meter spot between the driveways to the large bank parking lot. Installation will take place on or after November 16. We will mark the space EV Charging only, and remove the existing meter.

Open House: Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan

The Housing and Community Development Department hosted two open houses this past week. The first was held in the Community Center the night of the election and the second this past Monday in the offices of the Takoma Langley Crossroads CDA. Both were well attended with 32 residents attending one or both open houses. The discussion was lively with participants expressing their overall support for the Strategic Plan and providing welcomed input on the plan in general and its preliminary recommendations.

For those individuals unable to attend either open house, the Department has created an online comment form allowing residents to provide additional input on the plan. The form is available on the Strategic Plan Project Page and can be accessed at

<https://takomapark.seamlessdocs.com/f/StrategicPlanningComments>. Comments will be accepted through the end of the year. The Department is very interested in continuing its efforts to inform the community about the Plan and is currently exploring the possibility of hosting a Facebook Live event to discuss the process, general findings and preliminary recommendations of the Plan.

Additional information on the Strategic Plan, including the data analysis and SWOT report used to develop the preliminary recommendations outlined in the draft plan, can be found online at <https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/housing-and-economic-development-strategic-plan/>. The Strategic Plan is to be presented to the new City Council in early 2018.

Down County Consortium Site Selection Advisory Committee

Staff is attending the Down County Consortium Site Selection Advisory Committee tonight, Wednesday November 15, at the Montgomery County Public Schools office in Rockville. A new elementary school is needed to respond to ongoing enrollment increases within the Takoma Park / Silver Spring area. The Board of Education has recommended formation of a Site Selection Advisory Committee (SSAC) to identify potential sites.

It is anticipated the work of the SSAC will be completed by the end of November or mid-December. The SSAC will include PTA representatives, homeowner and civic association representatives, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) staff, City of Takoma Park staff, county agency representatives, Montgomery County Planning Department staff, and Montgomery County Parks Department staff. The Down County Consortium SSAC will consider future schools sites, closed school sites, and other county-owned properties.

Following the completion of the site selection process, the SSAC's report with recommended sites will be posted for public comment and sent to the Montgomery Planning Board for the mandatory referral process. Subsequently, the Superintendent will review the committee report, public comments, comments from the county and municipal agencies, and comments of the Montgomery County Planning Board as he develops his recommendations. It is anticipated that the recommendation will be sent to the Board of Education in February 2018 as part of the *FY 2018 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2017–2022 Capital Improvements Program* process. Board of Education adoption of a site should occur no later than the end of March 2018.

Purple Line - Community Advisory Team (CAT)

The first meeting of the Community Advisory Team (CAT) for the University Boulevard portion (Carroll Avenue to Adelphi Road) of the Purple Line was held last night at the Langley Park Community Center. Housing and Community Development Department staff was in attendance. The CAT will be meeting periodically throughout the construction of the new light rail system.

At the meeting, representatives from MTA and Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP) identified the main tasks that will be undertaken along University Boulevard Corridor over the next six months. Primary tasks include the removal of trees and vegetation, select demolition and the relocation of utilities. Utility poles will be relocated to allow for the new system and will not be buried. Bus stops will be temporarily relocated during construction. Construction will occur between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and again between 8:00 p.m. and 4:30 a.m.

Individuals that may be impacted by the construction of the project are encouraged to sign up for text or email notifications at purplelinemd.com.

Kudos

I would like to extend kudos to the outgoing Councilmembers Fred Schultz, Tim Male and Rizzy Qureshi. It has been a pleasure working with them and seeing their leadership in action. The City is better thanks to their service and dedication.

Hiring Update

We are currently advertising for a number of positions, including Planner, Council Intern, Police Intern, Arts and Humanities Intern, Housing and Community Services Intern, Licensing Specialist, Economic Development Specialist (limited-term position), and Recreation Program Assistants.

We have invited the top seven candidates for the Police Chief position for in-person interviews and assessments scheduled for late November.

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