



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of November 29, 2017

Information to Share

Police Chief Process

All day today and tomorrow, several stakeholders are participating in the assessment process for six candidates for the Police Chief position. The stakeholders involved include City staff members from the City Manager's Office, Police Department, Human Resources, Recreation, and Housing and Community Development, a representative of the Police Union, two Police Chiefs from nearby jurisdictions, a member of the Police Chief Advisory Committee, and a representative of the executive search firm. After debriefing with participants in the process, we plan to narrow the candidate pool down to two or three finalists who will be invited back for final interviews and additional meetings with Police staff and others.

Dockless Bikeshares

By now you have probably seen dockless bikeshare bicycles popping up around the City and surrounding areas. They are currently being piloted in Montgomery County for a six month period, and MOUs have been signed between the County and four different dockless bikeshare companies. After a meeting with Montgomery County representatives attended by the Mayor and staff, we tentatively agreed to be a part of the pilot area. However, we have not yet officially signed onto the MOU. Tonight, I am seeking direction from the Council whether we should sign onto the MOU, which allows the pilot program to operate in Takoma Park but be coordinated by Montgomery County. My recommendation would be to do so.

More information on the program, including ways for residents to provide feedback during the pilot, is available here: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/bikeshare/>

A copy of the presentation by Montgomery County Department of Transportation is available here: <https://documents.takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/community-development/bikeways-program/MCDOT%20Bikeshare%20Presentation%2020171019.pdf>).

A copy of the MOU template is available here: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT/Resources/Files/DocklessBikeshareMOU.pdf>..

Maryland Bikeways Grant Award - \$240,000

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) announced today the award of a \$240,000 Maryland Bikeways Program grant to the City of Takoma Park for the funding of design plans for the New Hampshire Avenue Bikeway project. The goal of this project is to creatively redesign the underutilized service lanes on the southbound side on New Hampshire Avenue as a two-directional bikeway, while still providing vehicular access to properties. The first phase of the design was completed with a technical assistance grant from the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments, which developed 30% plans. The second phase of the project – development of 60% plans – will be funded by this award. The Maryland Bikeways Program provides funding in support of improvements for bicycle and pedestrian safety and connectivity across the state today.

Additional information on this project can be found in the Project Directory: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/new-ave-bikeway/>

Takoma-Langley Crossroads CDA - Resignation of Executive Director

Earlier this week, we were notified that the Executive Director of the Takoma-Langley Crossroads Community Development Authority (CDA), Ms. Melanie Isis, has resigned and will be leaving the organization effective December 31, 2017. Ms. Isis has served as the Executive Director of the CDA on a part-time basis for six years. The CDA Board of Directors has begun actively recruiting applicants. The individual selected to fill the position will be a full-time employee of the CDA. Prior Executive Directors have served as contract employees on a part-time basis.

The Takoma/Langley Crossroads Community Development Authority, Inc. is a 501(c)6 business association established in 1987 as a Commercial Management District. Representing the interests of the commercial property owners and business in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads, the primary focus of the organization is on marketing and promotion of the area, maintenance, public safety and economic development. Membership in the CDA is mandatory with members assessed an annual fee, authorized by Council Ordinance. The CDA also provides, under a contract for services, economic development support to the City. This contract is up for renewal in July 2018. The fee for defined services is \$35,000 and is paid on a quarterly basis following the submission of a report on activities, defined in the contract, that are undertaken by the CDA during the reporting period.

Additional information about the CDA is available on their website: <http://takomalangley.org/>. The following links to a presentation given to the City Council by the Melanie Isis in June 2017: <https://documents.takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas/2017/council-20170621-5-presentation.pdf>.

Request for sponsorship of American Primitive Guitar Festival

The City has been asked to co-sponsor the first annual American Primitive Guitar Festival, a three-day celebration and commemoration of Takoma Park native John Fahey's contribution to American music and popular culture. The festival will include many of the original, first generation American Primitive players who recorded for Takoma Records, as well as the 'new generation' players who have sprung up and advanced the music in recent years. As sponsor of the event, the rental fee for the auditorium would be waived and organizers would be allowed to charge an admission fee. Two of the planned concerts and a planned lecture would be broadcast on CityTV.

Proposed Naming of the Auditorium – “The John Fahey Auditorium”

Members of the community have asked the City to name the auditorium in recognition of the contributions of musician John Fahey. A resident of Takoma Park, Fahey was an influential American *fingerstyle* guitarist and composer who has been described as the foundation of *American Primitive Guitar*. In 2003, he was ranked 35th in the *Rolling Stone* "The 100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time" list. If supported by Council, a resolution authorizing the naming of the John Fahey Auditorium would be presented for consideration in January 2018. The Council Chambers was dedicated to Mayor George Maylon Miller in the 1970's.

Election Information

The Clerk's Office has compiled additional election information including voter turnout numbers broken down by ward, turnout by 16 and 17 year old voters, and the list of write-in votes. The information is available on the City's website.

Kudos

Kudos to Rohan Ross, Solid Waste Supervisor, and our Solid Waste staff for their hard work and attention to safety. They have gone at least 12 months without a back injury. Given the physical requirements of their work, this is quite an accomplishment!

Hiring Update

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

Upcoming Dates of Importance

December 8 – Employee Holiday Party – Councilmembers are welcome!

December 13 – City Council and District 20 Legislative Priorities Hearing, 7:30; those who wish to speak must sign up in advance

Christmas Holiday Facility Closings – all City facilities will be closed from 12:30 pm on December 22 through December 25; Police Department emergency services are always available

New Year’s Eve Facility Closings – all City facilities will be closed on December 31 and January 1

January 10 – First City Council meeting of 2018!

My schedule: I will be away Friday, December 22 through Friday, December 29; Deputy City Manager Jason Damweber will be in charge during this time.