



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – June 12, 2019 Agenda Item 5

Work Session

Offer to donate 6507 Kansas Lane to City of Takoma Park

Recommended Council Action

None – discussion only.

Context with Key Issues

Musician and native Takoma Park resident Milton T. Phibbs passed away on March 27, 2019. In his will, he offered to donate his property to the City for use as a natural wildlife area. If the City accepts, the small home will be demolished and the property turned over to the City to maintain. If the City chooses not to accept, the property (with the home) will be sold and the proceeds of the sale will be distributed to the charities he named in his will.

City staff have discussed the bequest and recommend that the City not accept the property. The property is only 6,427 sq ft and is not adjacent to other natural areas, so is not really suitable as a wildlife area. There would also be some ongoing financial cost to the City.

Staff communicated with Mr. Phibbs' attorney regarding the Council's Priorities to see if the house could be used to advance housing or other City goals. The attorney feels constrained by the requirements of the will. However, staff would like to continue to work with the attorney about ways to save the 960 sq ft home and/or call attention to the remarkable artistic contributions made by Mr. Phibbs during his lifetime, while also honoring the provisions of his will.

A copy of the obituary for Mr. Phibbs is attached.

Council Priority

Fiscally Sustainable Government

Environmental Considerations

A small parcel is not normally suitable as a natural wildlife habitat. City maintenance would be required to ensure that the parcel not become overgrown with invasive vegetation.

Fiscal Considerations

The City received \$2,270 in property taxes from this property this year. If the City were to own the property, there would be no tax revenue from the parcel. Some maintenance and security costs would be associated with the property if it were to become City-owned.

Racial Equity Considerations

Removing a smaller home from the housing market reduces options for affordable home ownership, which disproportionately affects persons of color. It is not known if leaving the property as a natural wildlife area has a race equity impact.

Attachments and Links

Obituary of Milton T. Phibbs
Map of 6507 Kansas Lane

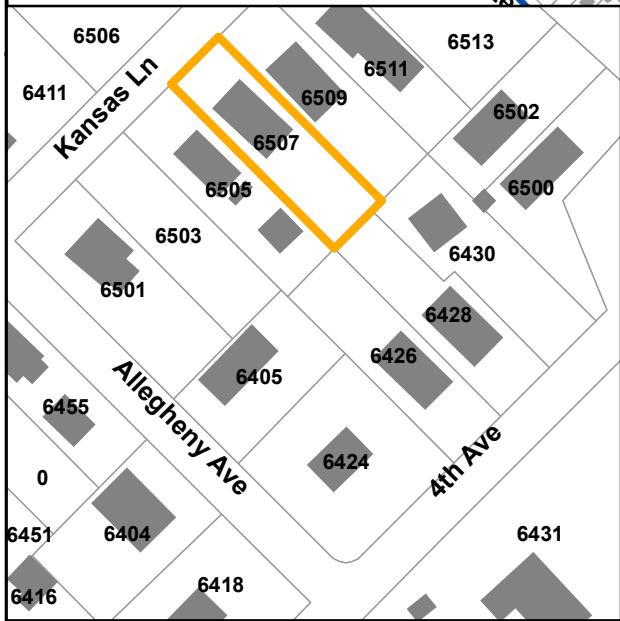
In Memoriam.

Milton T. Phibbs, musician, horn player and composer was born on November 17, 1949 in Takoma Park, MD. A graduate of High Point High School in Beltsville MD, Milton showed prodigious musical aptitude from a young age. Although his first instrument was the trumpet, Milton soon switched to the Horn, an instrument he would master and play for his entire career. Milton graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music in 1971 where he studied horn with the legendary Mason Jones and composition with Matthew Colucci. Milton quickly became a busy freelance musician, performing, touring and recording frequently with the Philadelphia Orchestra as well as the Minnesota Orchestra with his longtime friend, Kendall Betts. Other Philadelphia area professional credits include the Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Lyric Opera, Grand Opera Company, and the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra. Seeking adventure and musical opportunities, Milton moved to New York in the early 1980s and became a mainstay with the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra, Opera Orchestra of New York, Riverside Symphony, Westchester Philharmonic, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Orchestra of Saint Luke's, the American Composers Orchestra and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and played for various Broadway show productions for the entirety of his career in NY: 42nd Street, Cats, Phantom of the Opera, Beauty and the Beast, The Lion King, among others and was the longtime hornist of the Virtuosi Woodwind Quintet. Milton performed and recorded with Prof. Peter Schickele and the New York Pick Up Orchestra in the renown P.D.Q. Bach concert series. Milton Phibbs was an active and serious composer throughout his career. He had works premiered by the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra and at the Grand Teton Music Festival as well as at New York's Weill Recital Hall by the Virtuosi Woodwind Quintet. His commercial activities have included arrangements for NFL Films and he composed the music for the interpretive films at the Mount Rushmore Visitors Center for the U.S. National Park Service. Milton was a longtime composer-in-residence and faculty member of the Kendall Betts Horn Camp which takes place each June in New Hampshire, an institution that was very near and dear to his heart. He continued to hold this post well past his retirement from horn playing in 2010. Milton's compositions have long been loved by the horn community at large, as he was known for lushly melodic, frequently humorous, and fiendishly difficult pieces that reflected both his superb musicianship and razor sharp wit. In 2018 a tight-knit group of Milton's friends and colleagues in the NYC horn community gathered to record a collection of his original pieces for horns and percussion. This recording has been released is available for purchase wherever music is sold, and the project was Milton's final professional endeavor. Milton passed away on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at his home in Takoma Park, MD. Milton was known and loved by all for his quick wit, self-effacing manner, and unfailing kindness. He will be sorely missed.






[In Memoriam written by Shelagh Abate]

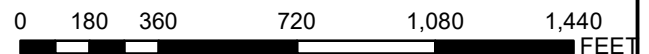
Graveside service will be conducted at Fort Lincoln Cemetery, 3401 Bladensburg Road, Brentwood, Maryland 20722, on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

6507 KANSAS AVENUE



LEGEND

-  6507 Kansas Lane
-  Buildings
-  Parcels
-  City Parks
-  City Boundary



1 INCH = 500 FEET