

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
PRESENTATION, VOTING SESSION AND WORK SESSION  
Wednesday, September 14, 2022**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mayor Stewart, Councilmember Kovar, Councilmember Dyballa, Councilmember Kostiuk, Councilmember Seamens, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Searcy

**Also present:** City Manager Fox, Acting Deputy City Manager Grigsby, Acting deputy City Manager Clark, Acting City Planner Freedman, and Deputy City Clerk Nalvarte

The City Council convened at 7:30 PM in the Auditorium.

**FOR THE RECORD**

Ms. Stewart presented and read the proclamations.

- **Welcoming Week Proclamation**
- **Emergency Preparedness Month Proclamation**
- **Proclamation – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VFW Post 350**

**PRESENTATION**

**1. Minor Master Plan Update**

Alex Freeman introduced Melissa Williams the Project Lead for the Takoma Park Master Plan. Ms. Williams provided an update on planned partnership, outreach, visioning overview, and planned timeline.

Ms. Lauren Stan gave an update on community engagement and the takeaways from the outreach. (Presentation attached)

Ms. Williams stated that there would be a Visioning open house at Piney Branch elementary school on October 18.

Ms. Stan said that the goal was to have an approved and adopted plan completed by the Fall of 2023

Mr. Smith suggested facilitating a way to join the residents and Washington Adventist senior staff to discuss what both parties want. Mr. Smith said that the residents of Ward 5 wanted to be a part of the process. He said that residents wanted to be heard and given the opportunity to share

their input. He stated that residents like informal meetings where that can talk to you one on one.

Ms. Kostiuk commented on the questionnaire results and said that she noted that there were concerns raised by residents on traffic and overdevelopment. She asked if the residents in the Maple Avenue canvassing area mentioned in the presentation had the same concerns.

Ms. Williams replied that the concerns were more related to daily life.

Ms. Searcy commented on affordable housing and campus housing. She asked how they sort out the different level of feedback and provide recommendations.

Ms. Williams replied that it was done through the visionary process. She said they gather all the conversations and use the visionary process to refine it.

Ms. Dyballa thanked them for the community outreach. She asked about the resident survey.

Mr. Kovar asked if any zoning change was required for some of the things recommended by residents.

Ms. Hisel-McCoy stated that they were a private development that had to provide the public benefits that the community was looking for. He said the minor master plan amendment was an opportunity to identify and prioritize those benefits. He said that zoning change was not going to dictate for example whether there can be a recreation center or pool.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Buddy Daniels commented on the passing of Jimmy Jarboe.

Jaqueline Moore commented on the Lincoln Avenue sidewalk art removal.

Susan Comfort commented on the art projects the neighborhood children painted on the sidewalk. She said that the kids need to get more involved in the community

Mary Jane Muchui commented on the Minor Master plan questionnaire.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Smith asked that staff look into the issue brought forth by Ms. Comfort and Ms. Moore. He said that we want kids in the city to be able to express themselves. He thanked everyone who was running for office. He said he appreciated all the nominators that came out to the nominating caucus.

Ms. Kostiuk thanked the residents that came out to comment. She thanked Ms. Muchui for her comments and stated that the City needed to make sure to reach out to members of the

community with special needs. She congratulated the VFW post on their anniversary. She also congratulated those who were nominated to run for office. She announced that Car Free Day was next Thursday.

Ms. Searcy commented on the passing of Jimmy Jarboe. She thanked the residents that came out to comment about the sidewalk art. She also thanked the nominators at the nominating caucus. She announced that the Food Crawl was on September 17. She thanked Public Works for their work New Hampshire gardens crosswalk and the sidewalk project at Larch Ave.

Ms. Dyballa asked for staff to take a look at the issues at Lincoln and Auburn Avenues as part of the public art planning process. She asked for a timeline for the installation of speedhumps and other road construction for the Auburn Ave and lower Prince George's area.

Mr. Kovar asked about tree planning program on private property and how staff planned to focus on less heavily treated areas. He said that he heard complaints from residents about the car charging station in the City especially on Willow and Carroll Avenues. Mr. Kovar commented on the Code Enforcement citation that require repairs in 30 days. He said that during this time it was difficult to get contractors out to fix big projects. He asked staff to review the deadline. He commented on public art and that it could be included in the public space management discussion. Mr. Kovars commented on the passing of Jimmy Jarboe and the passing Noah McMillan.

Mr. Seamens thanked Mr. Daniels for his memorial on Jimmy Jarboe.

Ms. Stewart thanked the organizers of the Folk Festival. She called attention to the September issue of the newsletter that contained a lot of information on the tree planting program and the library plan. She thanked Mr. Eubanks and the Housing and Community Development staff for their continued work on the Lee Avenue property. She also thanked Mr. Friedman for his presentation at the Mayor's Innovation Project. Ms. Stewart announced the Takoma Park pie eating contest and the Historic Takoma and the City of Takoma Park 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unification event. She thanked Ms. Comfort for her comments.

## **CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

Mr. Fox thanked the staff for their work on preparing for upcoming projects this Fall. He recognized Suicide Prevention Month.

## **VOTING SESSION**

### **2. Resolution Ratifying Agreement with AFSCME Local 3399**

Mr. Smith moved the resolution. Ms. Dyballa seconded the motion. (VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuk, Searcy, Seamens, Smith)

**Resolution 2022-35 (attached)**

**3. First Reading Ordinance Amending the Annual Budget in Order to Provide Wage Adjustment Compensation to City Employees (FY23 Budget Amendment No. 3)**

Ms. Dyablla moved the ordinance. Mr. Smith seconded the motion (VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuk, Searcy, Seamens, Smith)

**Ordinance 2022-39 (attached)**

**3-A. Resolution Authorizing the Use of FY22 State Revitalization Program National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund (NED) Grant Award Funds to Assist in the Acquisition of 320 Lincoln Avenue**

Ms. Kostiuk moved the resolution. Mr. Seamens seconded the motion (VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuk, Searcy, Seamens, Smith)

**Resolution 2022-36 (attached)**

**4. Resolution Designating Resident Agent for Service of Process**

Mr. Seamens moved the resolution. Ms. Searcy seconded the motion. (VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuk, Seamens, Searcy, Smith)

**Resolution 2022-36A (attached)**

**5. ~~Appointments to the Takoma Park Youth Council~~ (Moved to 9/21)**

**WORK SESSION**

**6. Public Space Management Plan (First Draft of Plan)**

Mr. Freidman gave a brief introduction to the Public Space Management plan and introduced the consultants from CH Planning. He said that the presentation was the first draft of recommendations built on a review existing conditions and recommendations generated from community feedback and staff discussion.

Mr. Jordan Exantus, Project Lead from CHPlanning, and Laura Connelly gave a presentation.

Ms. Stewart thanked them for their presentation and asked for time to go through all the recommendations presented and to allow for Council to identify goals.

Ms. Dyballa requested more structure on the recommendation to help guide the Council though this wish list of great ideas.

Ms. Kostiuk encouraged CHPlanning to do more outreach in Ward 3. She commented on traffic calming policy and the vision zero policy. She asked if CHPlanning looked at parking and alternative uses of parking spaces.

Mr. Exantus replied that they did but that they did not have any recommendation yet. He said they needed to review the issue more and more feedback from the City.

Ms. Kostiuk asked if there was a timeline outlook for each of the recommended projects.

Mr. Exantus replied that framing and prioritizing the projects was the next step.

Ms. Searcy said that she would like to see an overlay of locations identified on the map. She suggested taking a step back to identify Council goals and later fit the recommendation with those goals.

Mr. Kovar commented on signage, housing, standardizing zoning, ARPA funding navigators program. He said that some items may not need to be recommendations because the City already did them.

## **7. Election Update and Draft Election Ordinance**

Ms. Nalvarte gave a brief update on the election.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Council adjourned for the evening at 8:39 p.m.