

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CLOSED SESSION, VOTING SESSION, WORK SESSION
Wednesday, October 19, 2022**

MINUTES

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

Also present: Acting Deputy City Manager Grigsby, Acting Deputy City Manager Clark, Urban Forest Manager Frye, and City Clerk Carpenter

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

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA / AGENDA SCHEDULING UPDATE

Ms. Stewart provided an update on future agendas.

PRESENTATION

1. Tree Canopy Assessment

Mr. Frye introduced Jarlath O'Neil Dunn from the University of Vermont spatial analyst lab. He said the City worked with them before on a three to four-year interval assessment of the City's tree canopy cover. He said it was really helpful to track the changes in the canopy cover over time and also where the canopy exists.

Mr. O'Neil Dunn gave a presentation on how the analysis was conducted and the data it provided.

Mr. Frye gave a brief overview on the current program in place. (Presentation attached)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mary Jane Muchui asked why non-senior disabled people could not enroll in senior classes. She said it could be more suitable. She asked for housing assistance.

Emanuel Asafo, 666 Houston Avenue, said he lived in Takoma Park for 30 years. He commented on an issue he had with a Takoma Park police officer. He said that he felt violated and that the City was racist.

Buddy Daniels, Prospect Street, announced an open house at Piney Branch pool. He said that there were 75-100 people in line to purchase half price 6-month ticket.

Wayne Sherwood, Ward 1, thanked the Mayor for announcing the funeral service for Pam Larson. He commented on the life of Pam Larson

Kenneth Allen, Jackson Avenue, commented on the removal of invasives that he and the Action Coffee Group volunteers did on October 16. He suggested adding wood chips to the area to create paths.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Seamens spoke on behalf of his wife, Joy Seamens -Director of School Operations, and thanked the community for their support during the Piney Branch pool open house and apologized for the pool closing the next day due to a broken-down heating system. He said that the system was under repair and the pool was tentatively scheduled to reopen on November 1. Mr. Seamens stated that a company was in the process of installing new cell antennas on Park Ritchie apartments. He said that there was resident concern about the radiation from the antennas. Mr. Seamens requested that the council support a resolution to have the city contract with a professional company to measure the radiation from the antennas. He said he was pleased to see contested races this election year.

Mr. Smith supported Mr. Seamens request for a resolution. He said he supported a resolution for any 5g installation in the City. He thanked the residents for their comments. who came out to speak. He stated that he forwarded a voicemail from Mr. Emmanuel Asafo to Mr. Clark and Chief DeVaul.

Ms. Dyballa thanked Ms. Braithwaite, Public Works staff, and volunteers for the cleanup of invasives. She said she would like to see the work done in other parks in the City. She also thanked Long Branch Sligo neighborhood association for hosting a mayoral debate.

Ms. Searcy stated that she would like to see programs for developmentally disabled people. She commented on the Minor Master Plan visioning session she attended and announced that there was a second session on November 2.

Ms. Kostiuk said that she would be interested in hearing about Ms. Muchui's ideas to assist people with mental disability. She thanked the public for their comments. She commented on the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) meeting. She said that the TPB conducted a survey to gather information on commuting patterns every few years. She stated that the results indicated that the number of teleworking increased but the number of people driving alone also increased.

Mr. Kovar thanked Mr. Sherwood for his comments about Pam Larson. He supported the comments made by Mr. Seamens and Mr. Smith regarding radiation from antennas. He commented on his visit to the temporary library. He said that he suggested the inclusion of more firm guidelines on the upkeep of parks and fields.

Ms. Stewart stated that the City would continue their efforts to advocate on a federal level to review the outdated guideline on RF emissions on cell towers.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Clark commented on the library opening and encouraged residents to visit the temporary location.

VOTING SESSION

2. Second Reading Ordinance Amending the Ethics Code

No changes were made and there was no further discussion.

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

Ordinance 2022-43 (attached)

WORK SESSION

3. Discussion of Proposal from Collaborative Strategies, LLC

Ms. Stewart explained that Mr. Kovar proposed for the City Attorney to write a resolution directing staff to request a proposal from Collaborative Strategies to build upon the work that Collaborative Strategies conducted over the Summer. She said the purpose was to take proactive measures to foster an effective decision making and communication between elected officials, City Management, and the unions.

Ms. Stewart stated that the resolution would be on the agenda to vote on next week.

4. COLTA Appointment

Ms. Carpenter explained that although the appointment was outside of the appointment cycle, staff recommended reappointing Loren Price, an experienced former COLTA member.

Ms. Stewart said that the Council would vote on the appointment resolution next week.

ADJOURNMENT

The City Council adjourned for the evening at 9:07 p.m.