



# CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

## City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of March 13, 2019

### *Information to Share*

#### **City Budget Preparation**

City staff will be focused on preparation of the Proposed FY20 Budget over the next three weeks. During this time, the Finance Director and her staff, the Deputy City Manager and I will be heavily occupied with preparing the recommendations, working with senior staff on writing the narrative of the budget and preparing the presentation information for Council. We may not be able to respond to inquiries as rapidly as we normally do, and I ask for your patience.

#### **Update on Dockless Bicycles and E-Scooters**

The County recently announced that, as planned, they will be expanding the “dockless” pilot to include e-bikes and e-scooters, and are seeking letters of interest from potential vendors. The City will be included in the expanded pilot. Per the public statement put out by the County:

“With dockless bikes already enjoyed in various areas of Montgomery County, the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is seeking letters of interest from vendors to test the expansion of the program county-wide while also testing the introduction of dockless e-scooters. MCDOT will conduct a demonstration project with up to four selected companies to deploy dockless e-scooters and e-bikes at no cost to the County. The demonstration project is expected to begin in March and run for six months with an option for extension.

MCDOT has built numerous safeguards into a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) to ensure successful, safe and sustainable operation of dockless vehicle-sharing services within the County. These include performance measures like fleet size and condition, customer information and training on safe and appropriate operation of dockless vehicles including information about appropriate parking locations, response time to service requests, privacy protection, deployment density limits, removal of dockless vehicles in violation of the parking requirements, a publicly accessible application program interface and safety reports, among others.”

For more information, please see the full statement:

[https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcportalapps/Press\\_Detail.aspx?Item\\_ID=22854](https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=22854)

#### **Washington Adventist Hospital Move Planning Underway**

City police, public works and communications staff have been meeting with Washington Adventist Hospital staff regarding the logistics of moving acute care patients to their new hospital in White Oak this summer. The planned date of the move is Sunday, August 25. There will be a number of uses remaining at the Takoma Park hospital after that date. We are working with hospital staff on communications to the public and public safety during and after the move.

#### **Takoma Junction Information**

There have been a number of recent inquiries or comments about aspects of the development review process regarding the Takoma Junction project. While I cannot address all of them at this time, here are several timely points:

- 1) The Montgomery County's Development Review Committee meeting regarding the project will be held on March 19 at 9:30 am at the MNCPPC offices at 8787 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring. The meeting is open to the public but there is no opportunity for public comment. The primary purpose of this meeting is for the staff representatives of various agencies to provide technical comments on the plans posted on the County's development review website and to indicate if additional technical information is required before an agency can finalize its comments. A City staff representative also sits on the Committee and will share information that is needed, particularly if it affects or is affected by other agency comments. The City manages the permitting for trees and stormwater and those processes run concurrently and a bit after the County's process. The DRC does handle forest conservation, but it is not as strict as the City's Tree Ordinance. It should be noted that the Takoma Junction project is a relatively small, uncomplicated project compared to the ones usually reviewed by the DRC, so the time spent on the review in the meeting is likely to be relatively short.
- 2) The City's Urban Forest Manager has been reviewing the tree related materials submitted to date. He and members of the development team met on site today to review the possible removals, planting sites and construction impacts to existing trees. The Tree Commission has agreed to meet with NDC representatives on April 15 and will provide comments to the Council in time for the May consideration of a resolution on the site plan. I appreciate the work of the Tree Commission in the review of this project.
- 3) There has been some misunderstanding of the timing of the stormwater review of the project. A concept plan for stormwater has been approved by the City, but the much more detailed permit application and review is yet to come. When other aspects of the site plan are finalized and the building foot print is set, very specific formulas and calculations are required to be done by the engineer of record to show that the plans meet or exceed the requirements. The process and calculations are defined by State law and the City cannot weaken or strengthen the rules arbitrarily. The City Engineer reviews the application and, if they meet the requirements, they are approved. There is no peer review. This is the same process followed in any jurisdiction in Maryland.

For the Takoma Junction project as currently proposed, State law requires 2,545 cubic feet of stormwater to be treated (1,161 CF from existing impervious area and 1,385 CF from new impervious area). The proposed bioretention facility is calculated to provide 1,690 CF of treatment and the green roof is calculated to provide 1,546 CF of treatment. Together these equal 3,236 CF of treatment of the 2,545 required or 27% more than required. These numbers will be recalculated once the site plan is set and the information will be part of the stormwater permit application documents that will be submitted. Since there is no stormwater management on the site now, the overall volume of stormwater from the site is expected to be reduced by the new facilities that are required. Part of the permit review process will include an evaluation of the downstream stormwater system to ensure it can handle the stormwater coming to it from the facility.

### **Octo-Gone Contest**

In a fun public art project commissioned by the City of Takoma Park, fiber artist Stacy Cantrell crocheted a huge colorful octopus named *Oct O'Clock*. The deep sea-dwelling creature surfaced on top of the Old Takoma clock tower where it has lived for the past five months. But now it's time to move to a new home.

The Arts and Humanities Division is sponsoring a contest where the winner will receive the giant crocheted octopus. Contestants may submit a short essay (200 words or less) or video (two

minutes or less) explaining why they should get the octopus, what they plan to do with it, and what its new name will be. The application form is available online:  
<https://takomapark.seamlessdocs.com/f/Octogone2019>

### ***Hiring Update***

We are currently advertising and/or interviewing for a number of positions including Records Specialist/Office Assistant, Arts & Humanities Intern, Housing & Community Services Intern, Recreation Program Leaders, Contract CDL Driver, Police Officer-Lateral.