



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of May 15, 2019

Information to Share

Transportation Planning Board Approves Takoma Park Grant Application for \$50,000!

Earlier today, we learned that the MWCOC's Transportation Planning Board voted to approve \$50,000 in Transportation Land-Use Connections Program grant funds to the City in order to complete a bus accessibility inventory. The grant will be used to conduct a city-wide bus stop inventory to identify pedestrian and bicycle connections, and accessibility improvements for individuals with disabilities with the goal to increase access to transit in Takoma Park and other regional transit hubs.

Youth Council

The application for the 2019-2020 Takoma Park Youth Council is now available on the City website: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/public-notices/join-the-takoma-park-youth-council-applications-now-available/>. As a reminder, Takoma Park residents in grades 7-12 are eligible to apply. The Council will appoint up to 11 members in July to take office in September. The application deadline is June 28.

Please help us get the word out to prospective Youth Council members!

Delay in Flower Avenue Work

The first phase of the Flower Avenue Green Street Project is WSSC work. There has been a delay internally at WSSC as the project transitioned from the design team to the construction team regarding materials approvals. We are hoping that the delay is short-lived. We do expect some road saw-cutting work to take place this Friday to help keep the delay to a minimum.

Questions about Budgeted Library Expenditures

In recent days, we have received questions about what the \$800,000 in the CIP for the Library includes. In short, these funds – which are from the \$7 million Library Bond the City borrowed two years ago – are set aside to be used primarily for detailed design by our architect, which is required in order to go out to bid for construction. More specifically, the funds are expected to cover the following from design through construction administration:

- Architectural design
- Structural engineering
- Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing engineering
- Civil engineering and survey
- Interior design
- Cost estimating
- Geotechnical engineering

We recently received the work proposal from the architect, which is currently being reviewed by our construction contract attorney. Once we are satisfied with the proposal, an agenda item will go to Council to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract. From there, the architect and their sub-contractors will work on the detailed design. An early July Council work session is planned so that there can be a discussion of the plans to date, matters concerning the flood plain, interrelationships with other spaces in the Community Center (particularly the Recreation Department and the bathrooms), and funding sources and constraints. We intend to share

information on plan elements as they are available. When the detailed designs are completed, they will be brought forward to Council. Then the Council will decide whether to go out to bid based on the detailed design and cost estimates.

While we have estimates currently and will have better estimates once detailed design is complete, we will not know what construction costs will be until we receive bids from construction firms. Based on how the bids come in and the available funding in the budget for the project, we may or may not need to make modifications to the design. In short, there are many decisions to be considered and opportunities for discussions.

Sharrows Being Installed on Cedar Avenue and the Community Center Parking Lot

In conjunction with Bike Month, the City has been undertaking a number of efforts to encourage biking and to identify bike routes throughout the community. We investigated both permanent and “pop-up” installations and also have a number of bike events planned, including Bike to Work this Friday. One permanent improvement is the installation of bike “sharrows” around the the Community Center and on Cedar Avenue. The new standard design of sharrows is a bright lime green rectangle. Unfortunately, as part of the planning discussions about what to do for Bike Month, the outcome of the discussions were not communicated so that Councilmembers and residents on Cedar Avenue were surprised to see the sharrows being installed today. I apologize for the confusion and lack of advance information.

Takoma Junction – Correction Regarding HPC Consultation

Yesterday, a resident pointed out that the initial notes from the May 3, 2019 NDC Conference Call stated that the May 21 Historic Preservation Commission meeting “is a public meeting, however as a consultation, it will not include public comments.” Public comments are in fact permitted at HPC Preliminary Consultation meetings. We regret the error and have corrected the notes.

SHA Vision Study Collaboration

Questions have been asked about the level of City staff interaction with the project managers of the State Highway Takoma Junction Vision study. There has been regular communication between myself and the study project manager throughout the process, including review and distribution of materials, and offers of meeting locations. City staff have joined in promoting Vision Study surveys and meetings, including the current survey and June community meetings. Information can be found at: <https://www.roads.maryland.gov/Index.aspx?PageId=365>

National Police Week

This week is National Police Week, which is a solemn time dedicated to the Officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their communities. Please help us show support for our Officers who risk their safety day in and day out to serve and protect all of us in the community. If you have a chance, please take a moment to thank an Officer for what they do. Every bit of support shown is greatly appreciated.

Hiring Update

We are currently advertising and/or interviewing for a number of positions including Human Resources Director, Custodial Crew Leader, Recreation Program Leader, Public Works Intern, Planning Intern, HR Intern, Sr. Accounting Assistant, Audio-visual Technician (part time), and Police Officer-Lateral.

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