



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of November 6, 2019

Information to Share

Parking Enforcement Officer Position Filled

We have received a few complaints about a recent uptick in parking enforcement. The reason for the uptick is because, at long last, we have filled a vacant parking enforcement position. This enables us to provide enforcement during all hours when there is restricted parking (while the position was vacant, there was little evening enforcement). There have been no changes to the parking rates.

EcoDistricts

Three Planning division staff members became “EcoDistrict Accredited Professionals” last week: Rosalind Grigsby, Community Development Manager, Jamee Ernst, Planner, and Alex Michael, Planning Intern. The EcoDistricts Protocol is a neighborhood and district level approach to urban planning that prioritizes equity, resilience, and climate protection to guide community development. This approach aligns with the City Council’s sustainability, livability, and racial equity goals, as well as the Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan, to help guide growth in the City. The certification is a step toward creating a certified EcoDistrict in Takoma Park to accelerate neighborhood scale sustainability, green infrastructure, and community based decision making.

More information and case studies can be found on the [EcoDistricts website](#).

Dog Park Update

At the direction of the City Council, we are removing the sign at the Dog Park prohibiting commercial use. Staff remains concerned about wear-and-tear on the park due to the unforeseen use by commercial entities and believe, at the very least, there should be a limit on the number of dogs permitted at a time.

Application for Cell Tower on Park Ritchie – Update

The Council sent a letter to the Montgomery County Transmission Facilities Coordination Group earlier this week regarding an application that went before the Group for consideration at their monthly meeting held earlier today. Information in the application suggested that cumulative RF emissions on the roof of the building exceeded FCC limits. The letter urged the Group to seek clarification about the potential dangers posed by the existing cumulative RF emissions and asked what action could be taken to address them, whether by the County or another entity, before considering or approving the application.

While a County staff analysis concluded the exposure below the roof is considered negligible and that there was no exposure over the limits below the roof level, the Group decided at their meeting to table the item until next month.

Public Art Projects

City staff are developing plans for two potential public art projects using budgeted public art funds. After a public call for proposals, artists will be hired. Neighborhood input will be sought and the Arts and Humanities Commission will be involved in the process. The estimated budget for the projects totals \$55,000. Tonight’s budget amendment proposes carrying forward some

unspent funds from last year that would increase the current fiscal year budget to enable us to proceed with these projects.

Kudos

Kudos to HCD/Planning staff as noted above – Rosalind Grigsby, Jamee Ernst, and Alex Michael – for getting their EcoDistrict Professional certifications. This is a really cool concept and we look forward to seeing next steps toward creation of these types of districts in the City! The new Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan certainly lays some of the necessary groundwork.

Hiring Update

We are currently advertising and/or interviewing for a number of positions including Budget and Accounting Manager, HR Coordinator, Audio/Visual Technician (part-time), Photo Enforcement Specialist, Economic Development Intern, Landlord – Tenant Mediator, Mechanic, Recreation Program Leader, Police Officer (entry-level and lateral), Crossing Guard, and Youth Success Program Leader (Contract position).

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