



City of Takoma Park

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of February 26, 2020

Information to Share

Film Permit - Forest Park Playground

The City is issuing a film permit for the Forest Park playground for Saturday, February 29 and Sunday, March 1. The filming is for an episode of "Throwback Thursday" for the Washington Post. The filming will include a crew of 3 to 4. Child actors and their parents will be on site both days.

Location: Forest Park Playground

There are several conditions included with the permit:

- Several vehicles may be parked on the street in the vicinity but must obey parking regulations.
- Applicant does not have exclusive use of the park and playground.
- Applicant should post a sign notifying the public that there is filming taking place for which a City of Takoma Park permit was issued. The sign should include contact information for the producer to obtain more information.

Level 2 Electric Vehicle Chargers to be Upgraded and Require Payment

The Level 2 electric vehicle chargers at the Community Center and the Recreation Center will finally be updated in the next couple of weeks, the exact date is still to be determined. The new units are coming from EVI, and will have all the same plug types as the existing units so the chargers will be able to serve the same vehicles that frequent them now. The upgraded units will require credit card payments, and we will charge the same amount that RS Automotive charges for the Level 2 charging. It is expected that the payments will cover the cost of the electricity. It is not expected there would be a lot of "profit" although there may be a small amount. We will receive RFID cards for the City to charge its fleet vehicles without a credit card. We originally agreed to offer 3 years of free charging to the public with the Level 2 chargers, and we have exceeded that time frame. We are very excited as well since the new chargers will enable us to receive data on usage that we have not been able to get previously with the basic free charger units.

Citizenship Application Clinic

The Housing and Community Development Department is partnering with the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center to host a Citizenship Application Clinic on Saturday, March 7th from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm here at the Community Center. Immigrations attorneys will be available to provide assistance in completing naturalization applications. The attorneys will also provide assistance with fee waivers or reduced fee applications.

This clinic is for individuals who are at least 18 years old; have lived in the United States as a green card holder for more than 5 years, and have been physically present in the US for more than 2.5 years.

Some of our residents with immigration law experience will be serving as volunteers on that day.

Right of First Refusal Properties

When rental properties are placed for sale in the City of Takoma Park, the tenant(s), the City, and Montgomery County all have the opportunity to purchase the property under City and County law. The owner of the property must follow the applicable laws and provide notice. City staff ensure that the correct processes are followed and notices given. Staff also provide advice as to whether or not the City may wish to exercise its right to purchase the property. If a property looks like it might be appropriate for City purchase (guided by City policy and goals), information on the property will be shared with Council for a decision. Recently, the following property was determined to not meet the criteria for City purchase: 7333 New Hampshire Avenue, Unit 615 (condominium unit).

Follow Up to Questions on the Quarterly Financial Report

Last week, there were several questions about departmental budgets that spent more than 50% of their budgeted amount by the end of the Second Quarter. In the Public Works budget, one of the lines was high due to an error (an expense was placed in the wrong division's budget) and the other was the Urban Forest line which did spend a higher than usual amount related to tree issues. The Housing and Community Development administrative line spent more than 50% due to a payment related to a staff person who had resigned. Although there were higher than normal payments for the Urban Forest division and Housing and Community Development, the overall amounts do not trigger a funding concern given the circumstances.