

Town of Riverdale Park
Work Session Minutes
June 27, 2022
7:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Mayor Alan K. Thompson
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2 (left at 7:22 p.m.)
CM David Lingua, Ward 3
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk/Director of Administrative Services
Ryan Chelton, Director of Development Services
Rosa Guixens, Acting Chief of Police
Gentry Jones, Deputy Director of Finance Services
Ivy Lewis, Director of Public Projects and Services
Paul Smith, Director of Finance and Employee Services

Absent

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the Work Session to order at 7:21 p.m.

Agenda Approval

There were no changes to the agenda or stated conflicts of interest.

Presentation

Litton Property: University of Maryland (UMD) Track & Field Building

Mr. Ed Maginnis from the University of Maryland discussed the need for the project as the Purple Line would take a portion of the current UMD Track and Field facility. Mr. Maginnis explained that the project would be a joint venture with COPT and the facility would serve UMD as well as local high schools and community groups. Mr. Maginnis explained how the facility would fit with other amenities in the area and described the amount of use expected for the facility.

CM Lingua asked if the field would be natural grass or turf and Ms. Katie Hearn of UMD described the type of natural grass that would be used and the areas that would be covered by grass.

CM Lingua asked if track and field would be the primary use for the facility and Mr. Maginnis stated that UMD was only anticipating track and field use, but the facility could be used by the community, if needed. Mr. Maginnis discussed the size of the interior field.

Town Manager Lestitian asked about the project timeline and construction costs and Mr. Maginnis provided an overview.

Mr. Maginnis clarified that there were several areas of the site that would not be disturbed due to the flood plain and sensitive archeological areas.

Mayor Thompson asked about the buffer of trees between the trail and the facility and how many trees were expected to be removed. Mr. Maginnis stated that he did not have an estimate yet, but the plans also included onsite plantings.

Mayor Thompson asked how closely the project would meet the County's stormwater management guidelines and Mr. Maginnis reported that the engineers were given direction to meet the more stringent guidelines. Mayor Thompson asked if pervious pavement would be included, and Mr. Maginnis stated that the project had not been designed to that level of detail yet, but the material used would need to handle shuttle bus traffic.

Mayor Thompson stated that he would like to follow up regarding the trees and the possibility of permeable pavement.

Mayor Thompson asked if pavement would be removed, and Ms. Hearn reported that the current parking lot was nearly two times the size of the proposed parking lot and would decrease from approximately 200 spaces to approximately 150 spaces.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan Thompson reported:

- COVID-19 Update: COVID-19 is still present, and people are still getting sick; variants peaking at the end of summer and into fall; reminder to stay safe and vigilant
- Fourth of July reminder regarding fireworks; please be safe and visit public fireworks displays

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager John Lestitian reported:

- Fourth of July: staffing levels for the holiday
- Town Hall and DPW operations would be closed
- No trash or yard waste collection on July 4th
- TRP Redistricting Committee meeting will be held on July 6th
- July Legislative Meeting will be held on July 11th
- TRP Walk & Talk scheduled for August 20th
- August Work Session scheduled for August 29th
- Save the Date: Green Team's Tree Summit on September 10th

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua reported:

- Headen Springs project update: discussion regarding the greening of the channel near the development; stakeholders plan to present their vision at an upcoming Mayor and Council meeting, perhaps the July 11th Legislative Meeting. Mayor Thompson asked if

CM Lingua knew the name of the tributary as he had been unable to locate it in records but would like to track down the name.

- Discussion regarding the establishment of a sidewalk on Oglethorpe Street along the north side from 48th Avenue to Taylor Road; support from Riversdale, a great opportunity to work together to create a continuity of sidewalks. Mayor Thompson stated that it was an interesting concept, and he was a big fan of a complete sidewalk network. Mayor Thompson also stated that he recalled engineering concerns with the area, but it was a good opportunity to start discussions.

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5

CM Karen Mejia did not have a report.

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

CM Hala Mayers did not have a report.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Discussion Items

1. Fence Permit: 6-foot wood fence at 6314 47th Avenue

Administrative Services Director Jessica Barnes provided an overview of the fence permit request and introduced the applicant, Mr. Mike Moran. Mr. Moran discussed his project and stated that he planned to remove the back portion of the fence and reinforce the fence along the side property line.

Mayor Thompson asked if the only new portion of the fence was along the back of the property line and Mr. Moran discussed the location and height of the fences that currently exist.

CM Lingua asked for clarification regarding the location of the fence along the side property line and Mr. Moran provided additional details.

Mayor Thompson stated that the fence permit request would likely be placed on the Consent Agenda for the July 11th Legislative Meeting, but the Ward 1 Council Member would contact the applicant.

2. FY2022 Revenue Update

Deputy Director of Finance Services Gentry Jones provided an overview of the revenue categories in comparison to the previous three fiscal years.

In response to a question from Mayor Thompson, Deputy Director Jones discussed the tax revenue that was expected to be received by the end of the fiscal year.

Mayor Thompson thanked Deputy Director Jones for his thorough report.

3. Residential Permit Parking Program

Town Manager Lestitian discussed the upcoming Community Meetings and the timeline for review of proposed changes to the residential permit parking program. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the outreach efforts to neighborhood that currently participate in the program.

CM Lingua asked if staff were prepared for discussion of overall parking-related issues at the upcoming Community Meetings and Town Manager Lestitian replied in the affirmative.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that the Community Meetings would be recorded and shared on the Town's communication platforms.

4. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update

Development Services Director Ryan Chelton provided an update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) programming established by the Mayor and Council.

There were no questions from the Mayor, Council, or public.

5. RISE Zone Rental Program

Director Chelton provided an update on the Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise (RISE) Zone Rental Program and stated that staff would return to the Mayor and Council in the fall with a funding request. Director Chelton stated that funds were available from the Economic Recovery Strategy Fund (Small Business Assistance).

6. Street Furniture in Town: Benches CIP Project #12PW10

Director Chelton provided an overview of the inventory and condition assessment of Town benches created by the Department of Public Works (DPW) staff and the proposed design options for replacement benches.

CM Lingua stated that he preferred the arched back bench design and asked if there were other color options. Director Lewis stated that the flat back more closely matched the design of the corner cans and she would check to see if other colors were available.

CM Lingua stated that he liked the bench in front of Town Hall as well as the style of benches at Town Center. CM Lingua discussed his concerns regarding how hot the benches would get during the summer.

Director Lewis asked if the Council wanted to see more options and CM Lingua replied in the affirmative.

Mayor Thompson stated that he liked the arch back, but he would also like more time to review the options. Mayor Thompson asked what the lifespan of the benches was, and Director Lewis stated that she would bring more information to a future meeting.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff needed to review all bench options for accessibility and load requirements.

CM Mayers stated that metal benches would get really hot in the summer and really cold in the winter. Mayor Thompson noted that there was a need to balance maintenance needs with comfort of use.

7. Prince George's County Police Accountability Legislation CB-021-2022

Mayor Thompson stated that the County Council had addressed many of the Town's concerns and there appeared to be a process related to outreach to municipalities. Mayor Thompson stated that there were no new concerns in the amended bill however he was disappointed that they did not include one of the Town's recommended amendments.

CM Lingua stated that he would like more details regarding the process related to outreach to municipalities. Mayor Thompson discussed other amendments made to the legislation.

Mayor Thompson suggested that he and CM Lingua reach out individually to members of the County Council and revisit the topic at the July 11th Legislative Meeting. CM Lingua agreed.

8. Change of start time for Council meetings

Mayor Thompson stated that his work schedule included more time onsite, and it was difficult to get home in time for 7:00 p.m. meetings. Mayor Thompson stated that he would like to propose starting the Council meetings at 7:30 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. starting in August.

CMs Lingua, Mejia, and Mayers stated that they were supportive of the change to the start time for Council meetings. Mayor Thompson thanked the CMs for their consideration of his request.

9. Minutes

Mayor Thompson asked that the Council make staff aware of any changes needed to the minutes.

New Business

County Legislation

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of CB-061-0022 which would require that written summaries of the pre-application neighborhood meetings become part of the permanent record. Mayor Thompson discussed the minor amendment that he recommended to CM Glaros.

CM Lingua stated that he was glad to see the legislation moving forward.

Mayor Thompson stated that he also planned to discuss electric vehicle charging stations with CM Glaros.

Resident Plant Swap

CM Lingua discussed the idea of plant swaps for residents in Town to promote pollinator habitats. CM Lingua stated that he would ask interested residents to get in touch with staff regarding details of the plant swap.

Mayor Thompson stated that it was an interesting idea. CM Lingua discussed how the plant swap could be advertised. Mayor Thompson stated that he would discuss the idea with CM Lingua over the next few weeks to see if Council Action was needed. CM Lingua stated that it was a good way to encourage and motivate people who were interested in gardening.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.