

PLAN PRINCE GEORGE'S 2035 IMPLEMENTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE

June 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

CM Thomas Dernoga
CM Wala Blegay
Alexander Austin
Steve Bingham
Andrea Crooms
Nathaniel Forman
Ashlee Green
Brian Halloran

Evelyn Hoban
Kierre McCune
James Riley
Scott Rowe
Walter Simmons
Frederick Tutman
Ronald Weiss

Staff:

Marian Honeczky
Rana Hightower

Guests:

Sonja Ewing, Chief, Park, Planning and Environmental Stewardship, Department of Parks and Recreation
Ivy Thompson, Planner III, Park, Planning and Environmental Stewardship, Department of Parks and Recreation

Welcome (CM Dernoga)

Attendance - Have quorum.

Recap of Last Meeting - Meeting minutes approved

Power Point Presentation: Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance: Mandatory Parkland Dedication Program by Sonja Ewing and Ivy Thompson,

Discussion:

-Questions were asked about the power point presentation. Ms. Green: Are recreational facilities public or private? A: Depends on the facility. Ms. Crooms: Metro District on slide, do taxes and APFO apply? A: Area outside district (southern county) doesn't provide taxes, so Parks do not provide facilities unless it's in the CIP (capital improvement budget). Developers need to provide facilities. Mr. Weiss: Parks Classification for walkable – what is minimum / maximum distance? A: Available parking is the difference between neighborhood (no parking provided) and community parks. How do I determine which parks are available to me, the public? A: Don't know. Parks website shows amenities by park. How does the public know what amenities have been provided by the developer (contributed fees or provided)? A: Maybe in real estate documents. Ms Crooms: HOA's responsible for maintenance by agreements? A: No requirements for long term maintenance, no legal tools to enforce long term maintenance. Similar to storm water ponds. Mr. Riley: How do we figure it out? A: Parks is looking into it. One idea is DPIE partnership as they handle enforcement. Trail facilities are considered transportation (included in Transportation Master Plan) and should be considered the same as roads. Parks now has miles of trails. Parks is looking at inventorying all the countywide playground facilities including school board owned (to do) and common ownership (to do) and then will move to trails.

Discussion continued beyond the power point presentation and were still park related.

- CM Dernoga raised point that maintenance is endemic problem similar to one raised by CM Blegay regarding storm water management maintenance. HOA used to be the solution but created future responsibility problems. County, state have backlogs. A: Possible solution. Land acquisition for parkland is good level. Idea is to have

improvements on nearby parkland by developers instead of dedicating land especially in denser areas; instead of meeting development needs by private playgrounds placed on parkland. This creates need to increase staff & budget to maintain and inspect (supposedly weekly).

- Mr Weiss: an HOA with 1,000 residents, 60 years old and undeveloped land but no park. When will Parks create the park? A: Not sure where the property is. Parks CIP is packed. Parks create lists for the budget which now is focused on big cycle of maintenance funding strategies. Have lots of land; need to update or replace facilities. High priority for sport fields, trails and playgrounds.

- Ms Crooms: if Parks sees parks as a utility; analyze value and costs-cost of service/cost of value. A: Enhancing asset management system that tracks time frame for work orders and their costs which is used to project costs of amenities for budget operational impact. Apply to other recreational facilities.

- Ms Hoban: if recreational facilities change as a community ages to reflect the change. A: Private community can decide. Parks currently looks at facilities to be replaced to bring in current residents into Parks but doesn't discourage future playgrounds. Playgrounds and adult fitness.

2040 Plan

- Ms Crooms: 2040 was finalized in 2013. What analysis has gone into post-Covid park use? A: A report card assessment was completed in 2019 and looking to update. Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) looks at parkland, agricultural land, boat access every 5 years. Contains recommendations and level of service (LOS). Informs CIP and is required to receive state POS funds. Now considering including more information on fields (lights, sport type) and add equity lens.

- CM Dernoga: '2010 and Beyond' was pre-plan for 2040. Has criticism - his district is underserved as Parks includes Laurel and Greenbelt but his citizens need to pay and Parks take credit for Laurel and Greenbelt parks. A: Need to include all municipalities in 2040 for all to get POS funds. CM Dernoga: so how are we doing? (see NRPA Park Metrics slide) Have met 35 acres per 1,000. At 28 acres parkland; county as whole 32 acres, add in federal and state land over 35 acres. Metric includes open, protected land including federal land (both preserved and agriculture). Overall, 55,000 acres of park and rec land in county. Developed parkland hasn't been met. Are federal and state lands accessible? Not really. For example, AAFB is only for military families and Wildlife Refuge has a small part accessible. Need to split out federal land including federal agriculture. Is ag land considered parkland or open space? A: Not all parkland is recreational land and includes forested stream buffers, ag and recreation; 12500 acres of play space. CM Dernoga: Have not met goal yet.

- CM Dernoga: The power point assumes the Subdivision Ordinance is in effect. Adequacy is a requirement of new. A: Required for all subdivisions in both versions. Ms Shoulars explained that technically that is correct. The old language was moved into new ordinance. Still goes through certificate process.

- CM Dernoga: Is the council aware of the proposed Guidelines & Regulations? A: Scheduled for PHED Sept agenda (resolution not CB). Guidelines approved in 1984 and last try to update didn't pass (but using these as process). The proposed document separates out fee costs and technical (specs & details); 357-page document of those 15 pages about process. Separated out fee as there is a need for updated specs & details. Fees tied to Subdivision Omnibus. 2040 about connectivity of parks and economic development. Need a council sponsor.

- Mr Forman: Use of fees to rejuvenate smaller facilities, neighborhood parks, maximizes investment. Subdivision Omnibus connection.

- Mr Riley: Parks not affordable are they removed? Has Parks held HOA townhall to educate HOA that they are in charge of park? Need concerted public engagement. How do we support older sites and HOA? There is no strategy. Affordable for older communities? Not feasible for kids if need to use facilities nearby. Need to survey private ownership. A: To clarify, new idea is if developer makes improvement – increase LOS for new residents; not upgrading existing playground as that is already in LOS but add new facilities to park.

Next meeting is in-person July 8, 4:00 – 5:00 pm.

Adjournment

Future Meeting Dates:

- **July 8 4 pm – 5 pm**

Future dates to be determined