



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

National Park Service/Greenbelt Park

COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ONLINE ONLY

Due to the COVID-19 precautions, the Council Meeting will be held online and is planned to be cablecast on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996 and streamed to www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv.

Resident participation:

Join Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85973361914?pwd=R1JuME81cHhValcyektlL3c0VngxZz09>

Webinar ID: 859 7336 1914

Join By Phone: (301) 715-8592

Password (if needed): 776086

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use Video Relay Services (VRS) at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

8:00 PM

Work Session Packet

National Park Service/Greenbelt Park

Suggested Action:

Agenda

- Introductions
- Council Discussion

- Questions and Answers

- Other Items

[WS180124.pdf](#)

[WS200115.pdf](#)

City Council Work Session Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: February 2, 2022

Submitted by: Bonita Anderson

Submitting Department: Administration

Item Type: Work Session Item

Agenda Section: Work Session Packet

Subject:

National Park Service/Greenbelt Park

Suggested Action:

Agenda

- Introductions
- Council Discussion
- Questions and Answers
- Other Items

Attachments:

[WS180124.pdf](#)

[WS200115.pdf](#)

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, January 24, 2018, for the purpose of meeting with the National Park Service.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis started the meeting at 8:02 p.m. It was held in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Colin A. Byrd, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V.J. Putens and Mayor Pro Tem Judith F. Davis. Mayor Emmett V. Jordan was away on business travel.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Nicole Ard, City Manager and David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Matthew Carroll, National Park Service; Bill Orleans and Lester Whitmer.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis welcomed everyone and there were introductions.

Mr. Carroll gave a Powerpoint presentation. He reported on the reorganization of National Capital Parks East. Mr. Carroll outlined the Superintendent's priorities.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis asked about National Park Service (NPS) funding levels. Mr. Carroll responded that their budget was stagnant.

Ms. Mach asked about the campground use. Mr. Carroll responded that campground reservations are now online and campground usage was increasing.

Mr. Carroll discussed visitors, programs, park projects (campsite improvements) and fire safety mitigation. He noted this was the Year of the Anacostia and indicated that Greenbelt Park would likely participate with the Friends of Still Creek on a clean up project.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis asked about long-term campers. Mr. Carroll responded you can stay up to 14 days.

Mr. Putens asked about sports activities on Greenbelt Park fields. Mr. Carroll responded that they don't permit organized sports. Mr. Putens asked about security cameras. Mr. Carroll responded that only the Park Police station has cameras.

Mr. Carroll discussed the proposed B-W Parkway transfer and widening. He noted the Parkway has some unique architectural elements. Mr. Carroll stated that Governor Hogan had met with NPS Secretary Zienke and discussed the transfer. NPS received an official request from the State and NPS is evaluating their response. Mr. Carroll believed that congressional legislation would be necessary for the transfer to move forward.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis asked if anyone at NPS was advocating to retain the Parkway. Mr. Carroll responded they were waiting for guidance.

Mr. Carroll stated that NPS staff were not aware of a transfer like this taking place previously. He discussed three prior efforts (50's, late 70's/early 80's and mid 90's) to transfer the Parkway.

Mr. Putens suggested the City may want to send comments to the National Park Service and Department of the Interior.

Mr. Roberts indicated that an impairment study might be needed.

Next, Mr. Carroll discussed Maglev. He noted the two alignments would parallel the Parkway, but be off the Federal land. He stated that any further proposal would go through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis asked about survey work taking place at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS). Ms. Ard indicated she would ask Principal McNeill.

Mr. Carroll explained the Hyperloop would be an underground transportation project connecting Baltimore to DC. He indicated NPS was still trying to assess the request.

Mr. Carroll reported on maintenance and repair projects including resurfacing, striping and vegetation removal projects.

Mr. Carroll discussed partnership opportunities. He noted programs with Greenbelt Recreation and Greenbelt Theatre. He also discussed the Every Kid in a Park, junior ranger and guest lecture programs. Mr. Carroll commented on the possible enabling of a Friends of Greenbelt Park group to help support the Park. Mayor Pro Tem Davis suggested including information about Greenbelt Park in the City's welcome packet.

Mr. Byrd asked for updates on Park Police issues. Mr. Carroll reported that commercial vehicles were an ongoing problem. He also indicated that emergency response had improved by coordinating with other agencies and expected this to continue.

Mr. Byrd asked about the impact of the government shutdown. Mr. Carroll responded that this shutdown was different than 2013 and noted that campers were allowed to remain and the park stayed open; however bathrooms were locked.

Mr. Byrd asked where NPS was leaning on the Maglev proposal. Mr. Carroll stated that NPS had provided comments indicating there would be a negative impact on the Parkway. Council discussed the possibility of obtaining the NPS comments via a FOIA request.

Information Items

Ms. Pope reported on a student that fell through an apartment window at Franklin Park. Ms. Mach requested a report from Franklin Park on this incident as well as the number of units with window guards installed.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis provided information on an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report presented at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee meeting. She also reported on the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Legislative Committee meeting.

The meeting ended at 10:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager*

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, January 15, 2020, to meet with the National Park Service – Greenbelt Park.

Mayor Byrd started the meeting at 8:02 p.m. The meeting was held in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, room 201.

Present were: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Leta M. Mach, Emmett V. Jordan, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Colin A. Byrd.

Staff present were: Nicole Ard, City Manager; and Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Administrative Assistant.

Also present were: Matthew Carroll, National Park Service; Robert Goldberg Strasser, Marjory Gray, Susan McCutcheon, Bill Orleans, and others.

Mr. Carroll provided Council with an update of the Greenbelt Park. He noted the National Park Service (NPS) is advancing the Greenbelt Park and the Baltimore Washington Parkway (BW Parkway).

Mr. Carroll reviewed the five priorities he established at the Greenbelt Park since 2015, which include: improve visitors' experience, institute sound business practices, foster a culture of safety in daily operations, ensure good stewardship with Park resources and facilities, and develop a professional workforce.

Mr. Carroll noted that visitation has increased in the park since 2015, mainly focusing on campground usage. He stated that campsite reservations can be made online and the park would be reopened in 2020.

Mr. Carroll advised an annual calendar will be posted online that would outline various programs.

There was discussion of the programs that the Greenbelt Park offers.

Mr. Carroll explained the Greenbelt Park facilities and roadways are undergoing significant upgrades. The Greenbelt Park had been closed since mid-July 2019. He advised the roadway bridge between the main park area and the campground would be replaced. Mr. Carroll stated the all the roadways would be repaved.

Mr. Carroll stated that there had been significant improvement to the campgrounds. He noted that two out of the four campground loops have an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) grill/ring and upgraded tables. The third campground loop upgrades would be completed in summer 2020.

Mr. Carroll mentioned that Greenbelt Park would upgrade the electrical infrastructure, which include the Information Technology and phone system in 2022-2023.

Mr. Carroll advised the NPS safety crew would be removing from the picnic area, campgrounds, and trail areas dead or dying trees that have been identified as a current or future safety hazard.

Based on a question asked from Mr. Jordan, Mr. Carroll stated the Greenbelt Park is healthy. Mr. Carroll advised one of the oldest living trees in all of the National Capital Parks East resides in the Greenbelt Park. He noted concern was the deer population and the NPS would be conducting a deer population study in the summer or fall of 2020.

There was discussion of stormwater run-off and erosion. Mr. Carroll noted that stormwater run-off is a problem for Greenbelt Park and the BW Parkway. Mr. Carroll stated that Greenbelt Park is working with the State of Maryland and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to identify areas where the park can have improvement projects.

Ms. Davis asked about the recently built barn. Mr. Carroll noted it was the Salt Dome. He stated that the Salt Dome had increased salt storage capacity.

Mr. Carroll noted the foundation documents to guide how to manage Greenbelt Park were never developed. He stated the park's purpose is to provide recreation opportunities and serve as space for the natural environment to thrive.

Mr. Jordan asked about staffing and funding at Greenbelt Park. Mr. Carroll responded that staffing had been declining slightly.

Mr. Carroll discussed the maintenance on the BW Parkway. He noted the focus was on potholes, paint striping the roadway, trees, and vegetation removal. Mr. Carroll stated that the main paving of the BW Parkway has been completed from US-50 to MD-175, and the majority of all the ramps have been restriped and repaved.

There was discussion of the potholes on the BW Parkway. Mr. Carroll noted that the emergency repairs of the Parkway took four weeks during the government shut down with the Parkway being shut down on Friday/Saturday nights.

Ms. Davis asked about the proposed BW Parkway widening. Mr. Carroll responded that the momentum has shifted since the Parkway has been repaired. Ms. Davis noted that there would have to be congressional approval to give the BW Parkway to the State.

There was discussion on the Maglev. Mr. Carroll noted that NPS has been providing comments regarding the potential impact of the alignments on the Parkway for the past three years. He stated the bigger concern was the encroachment on the narrow corridor of the Parkway. Mr. Carroll advised an environmental impact statement would be released in 2020.

Mr. Putens asked which agency, NPS or the Federal Highway Administration, had the final authority concerning the realignment of the Maglev on the Parkway. Mr. Carroll stated he would follow-up with NPS.

Based on a question asked by Mr. Jordan, Mr. Carroll noted that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is the lead Federal agency concerning the Loop Project.

Mayor Byrd stated that the City of Greenbelt strongly opposed the Maglev.

Mayor Byrd asked Mr. Carroll what the impact of the project would be on the Parkway during construction. Mr. Carroll noted that it is a concern of NPS, due to entry points for underground

tunnels.

There was discussion on the Maglev being above ground and underground.

Mr. Roberts inquired on the number of trees/forest that would be destroyed due to the impact of the Maglev on NSP right of way. Mr. Carroll responded that he would follow up with the Council with the exact number.

Mr. Jordan stated that the crosswalk coming from northbound BW Parkway onto westbound Greenbelt Road across from the Greenway Shopping Center is very dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists. The visibility is limited. He inquired was it the State Highway Administration or NSP that maintains the location.

Ms. Susan McCutcheon, Bladensburg Citizens Against SC Maglev, expressed her concerns and views opposing the Maglev.

Debra, Greenbelt resident, inquired did any of the Federal Agencies receive any data from the Maglev company in Japan. Ms. Pope stated she hasn't heard any success stories regarding the Maglev.

Cathy, Greenbelt resident, asked what changes did the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) make to help with the Maglev. Ms. Davis noted that it was supposed to speed up the process of the studies that are required.

Ms. Mach noted the exit from the Parkway onto Southway is problematic. She suggested adding an additional right turn lane. Mr. Carroll stated that the Federal Highway Administration advised the space was too narrow to add an additional lane, but he would follow up, with the Federal Highway Administration.

Mr. Carroll outlined some of the Greenbelt Park's upcoming events including the Park's reopening in 2020, the work toward obtaining Greenbelt Park designation as a National Register Historic Place, foundation studies, and Park staff engagement with local communities. Ms. Davis suggested reaching out to the Greenbelt Station Homeowners Association.

Mr. Aaron Marcavitch, Greenbelt Resident and Director of the Anacostia Heritage Trails, suggested the Greenbelt Park and the City of Greenbelt apply for the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant, Bikeway Grants, and the Safe Routes to Schools Grant.

Ms. Pope left the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

Several informational items were discussed.

The meeting ended at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Shaniya Lashley-Mullen
Administrative Assistant*