

Town of University Park

**Report of Meeting,  
Council Committee on Public Facilities and Services**

Thursday, August 9, 2012

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

University Park Town Hall  
6724 Baltimore Avenue, UP MD

**Committee Members Present:**

Len Carey, Ward 4, Chair

Michael Cron, Ward 6

David Brosch, Ward 1

**Others present:**

Council Member James Gekas, Ward 2

Council Member Roy Alvarez, Ward 7

Michael Beall, Director, Public Works

Bruce Burroughs, East West Highway

Mickey Lucas, Tennyson Road

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

**Review of Committee mission and purview**

**Committee Practices:**

- We are an advisory committee; our job is to research and recommend to the Council.
- We are not an oversight or administrative committee; we supervise and oversee no one.
- The Mayor is welcome to these meetings as an *ex officio* member of the Committee.
- The Director of Public Works is welcome to these meetings.
- Meetings are open to the public, with participation welcome.

## **Committee Purview:**

### Within the purview of the Council Committee on Public Facilities and Services:

- Street Light placement and replacement
- Paving Streets and Sidewalks
- Marking and signage of roads and streets—with Police, Traffic, and Public Safety
- Parks and Public Spaces
- Town Hall physical plant
- Shuttle bus
- Trash
- Invasive Species (new)
- Recycling
- Most matters dealing with Public Works facilities and operations

### Not within the purview of the Council Committee on Public Facilities and Services:

- Public safety -- Council Committee on Police, Traffic, and Public Safety
- Permits-- Council Committee on Policy, Rules, and Government Structure
- Stream--Stream Committee
- Safety of Public facilities-- Council Committee on Police, Traffic, and Public Safety

## **Review of Committee Projects**

The Committee reviewed a list of projects before it--which it is working on or proposing to work on--to consider additions and deletions:

- Marking and signage of University Park Roads and Streets.

Mr. Beall noted that--at the corner of 41st avenue and College Heights Drive, there was a cherry tree or crab apple tree which was significantly obstructing a stop sign. He was going to deal with it.

Mr. Beall discussed striping of Town streets, including the crosswalk at Van Buren Street and Wells Parkway where there is no sidewalk to connect to.

Stop signs. Mr. Beall discussed progress in replacing stop signs in University Park with new signs meeting the updated standards in the Maryland Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and in restriping parking lots and cross-walks in University Park. Stop Signs in University Park are being brought up to the standards, that they be 7' from the

ground, be 30 inches in diameter, and meet reflectivity standards. He is replacing all Stop signs in town, within the allotted budget.

Stop sign bars at appropriate intersection. Mr. Beall does not favor painting 153 stop bars in Town, but recognizes there are places where they are needed. He believes that this does not solve a safety problem. He recommends painting stop bars only at intersections which are high-volume or high-issue. Painting each stop-bar would cost about \$ 20; painting all of them would cost about \$3,000.

The Committee modified its April 25 recommendation to paint stop bars at all stop signs in University Park. The Committee now recommends that the Town paint stop bars at fewer intersections.

Mr. Carey recommended that stop bars be painted at all stop signs at intersections along Wells Parkway, College Heights Drive, and Queens Chapel Road, which are the most heavily used roads in University Park.

Curb painting. Mr. Burroughs, resident on East-West Highway, proposed an exception allowing the curb to be painted along both sides of 44th Avenue at the intersection with East-West Highway, to provide visual reminder that there was to be no parking there. Mr. Burroughs suggested that the speed of traffic on East-West Highway creates a hazardous intersection which could be mitigated by enforcement of no parking rules. Mr. Brosch suggested signage as well.

Signage. Mr. Beall also proposed placing speed limit signs at every entry to University Park and eliminating them on the interior of the Town. This would ease sign clutter within the Town.

- Street light replacement via STEP-UP
- Kitchen waste compost pilot study via STEP-UP
- Town holiday tree replacement contingency--this has been referred to the Director, Public Works. The break at the top has been cleaned up, and the tree cosmetically trimmed, but Mr. Beall will recommend to the Council what should happen.
- Town Hall addition--review of 2008 plans and other options, per Council referral. The Committee will address this.

- Household hazardous waste collection--this has not been funded for FY 2013, but the Committee and the Director, Public Works are continuing to explore the feasibility and costs of this. Mr. Brosch proposed considering doing this in cooperation with other municipalities.
- 44th Avenue bridge replacement--The bridge is no longer suitable for vehicular traffic, and needs to be replaced. Mr. Beall reported that the County is proposing an arched bridge which presents less impedance to water flowing under the bridge, and may be willing to help fund. There are many other opportunities and possibilities with this site, which the committee will address this.
- Temporary dog play area in park--The Committee will drop this project from its working list, and recommends that the Council not proceed further with a temporary dog play area at this time.
- Tennis court repair. This is funded in the FY 2013 budget. Mr. Beall recommended that the Tennis Court on Queens Chapel Road be repaired.
- Planning for park use and maintenance--the Committee has proposed a planning process, and will follow up.
- Perimeter trash cans--the Committee has recommended to the Council on this issue. Mr. Beall reports that the Town is making use of University of Maryland students doing community service.
- Veteran's memorial and observance in University Park (New)--this will honor those who served. A site will need to be selected. The Committee will work with an array of groups to address this, including the tree committee, and will recommend to the Council.

The Committee adjourned at 8:45 PM.