

Town of University Park

Report of Meeting

Council Committee on Public Facilities and Services

Thursday, October 3, 2013

7:00 pm

University Park Town Hall

6724 Baltimore Avenue

Committee Members Present:

Len Carey, Council Member, Ward 4, Chair

Michael Cron, Council Member, Ward 6

James Gekas, Council Member, Ward 2

Others Present:

Roy Alvarez, Council Member, Ward 7

Suellen Ferguson, Town Attorney

Tom Ahmann, Ahmann Architects LLC

Fred Werth, Pineway

Terisa Flick, Pineway

Debra Suarez, Woodberry Street

Carol Cron, Underwood Street

Meeting called to order: 7:04 pm

1. Little Free Library

- The Library is an outdoor structure that allows residents to drop off and pick up books.
- The structure can be purchased from the Little Free Library Company and the prices range from \$175.00 - \$600.00. The Civic Association has offered to make this purchase.
- It was suggested that the structure be placed close to a sidewalk and trees and not close to a field where children might run into it.
- The Civic Association will ask the community to donate books to the Library.
- Ms. Flick offered to visit the Library once or twice a week to monitor the contents.
- An agreement between the Town and the Civic Association needs to be made in reference to maintaining the Library such as mowing around it, replacing the roof installing the structure. This agreement should state that the Civic Association identify when maintenance is needed.

Motion: To return the proposal for a Little Free Library to the full Council with a recommendation that it be approved, and:

- That the Council designate and approve a site between the sidewalk and trees, near Queens Chapel Road and close to the Town Field and University Park Elementary School for the location of a Little Free Library on public land in University Park, such site to be specifically located by the Town, and;
- That the Council request that the University Park Civic Association pay for the creation of such a Little Free Library, and coordinate its stocking with appropriate books and continuing operation, and;
- That the Council request that the Town maintain the Little Free Library structure itself where the need for such maintenance is indicated by the University Park Civic Association, and;
- That this arrangement may be ended or altered at the convenience of the Town at any time, and;
- That this be subject to a signed agreement between the Town and the University Park Civic Association.

Moved by: Mr. Gekas

Seconded by: Mr. Carey

Motion Approved

2. Possible acquisition of Riverdale Presbyterian Church--Format for community conversations and public forum

- Questions at this first public forum will be documented with a goal of providing answers by the January 11, 2014 meeting. Mr. Carey proposed that the answers be available, as a document, on the Town's web-site.
- Microphones should be used for the forum and questions limited to three minutes.
- A suggestion was made that the residents be informed that the October 10 meeting is preliminary and that there are not a lot of answers at this time.
- When questions are asked that are related to the following areas, the committee member can either answer the question or clarify that it is being studied:
 - Potential uses - Mr. Brosch
 - Costs of purchase, conversion, maintenance costs - Mr. Cron
 - Funding sources, grants and bonds - Mr. Gekas
 - Evaluations and due diligence - Mr. Ahmann
- It was suggested that the committee inform the residents of the purpose of this meeting, how information from the meeting will be used and explain the legal process of this purchase.
- Suggestions were made to give the residents as much information as possible concerning this purchase prior to the meeting. This could be done through e-mail or the Town web-site. It was also suggested that residents phone in or mail in their questions which would be answered at the meeting. This may eliminate agitation at the meeting.
- Ms. Ferguson asked that Mr. Carey contact the church to make arrangements for the pre-bid conference on October 15 or 17.

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 pm