



**MEETING OF
UNIVERSITY PARK MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL**

***UNIVERSITY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
4315 UNDERWOOD STREET***

7:30 PM

**May 5, 2014
MINUTES**

EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS CALLED AT 7:00 P. M. TO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL FOR AN RFP FOR THE TOWN BEFORE A CONTRACT IS AWARDED OR BIDS ARE OPENED, DISCUSS A MATTER DIRECTLY RELATED TO A NEGOTIATION STRATEGY OR THE CONTENTS OF A BID OR PROPOSAL, IF PUBLIC DISCUSSION OR DISCLOSURE WOULD ADVERSELY IMPACT THE ABILITY OF THE PUBLIC BODY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING OR PROPOSAL PROCESS.

1. CALL TO ORDER: *Mayor Tabori*

Present: Mr. Brosch, Mr. Gekas, Ms. Christiansen, Mr. Carey, Mr. Alvarez
Absent: None
Excused: Ms. Sorensen, Mr. Cron

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Mr. Gekas.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA as modified.

Moved by: Mr. Alvarez
Yea: 5

Seconded by: Mr. Brosch
Nay: 0 **Abstain:** 0

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *April 28, 2014*

Moved by: Mr. Alvarez
Yea: 5

Seconded by: Mr. Gekas
Nay: 0 **Abstain:** 0

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joann Fletcher, 4100 Van Buren Street

- Is on the Veterans Memorial Committee and hopes that the proposed site is not changed.
- Would like to see the cost come down more reasonably. Keep the design more simplified.
- Does not believe the site will create more traffic.

Julie Enszer, Wells Parkway

- She heard that the Town Christmas tree has died and a new Town Christmas tree will be placed at the proposed Memorial site.
(Mayor Tabori responded that this is not true).

Michelle Dudash, 6906 Wells Parkway

- The Town should consider having trash collection, composting and recycling one day a week for each.
- Very supportive of a Veterans Memorial and can't understand why not share a site where there is already a place of reflection.
- Questioned whether the site was chosen to advertise the Memorial or a place of reflection.

(Mr. Thompson responded that the site was meant to be a place of beauty and very natural. Mr. Carey also responded that the Council Committee on Public Facilities and Services stated in a memo that the proposed site was preferred being that it was more visible and in a part of town which is easily accessible.)

Morgan Wootten, 6912 Wells Parkway

- Believes in having a Memorial but does not support the proposed site. It is the busiest traffic point in all of University Park, it could hurt the value of the houses around the site and there is a safety factor.
- A great majority of homeowners in that area do not want the Memorial at that particular site.
- What is there to lose to just take another look at considering another site.
- The people in the immediate area need to be consulted.

Jenny Glenn, Woodberry Street

- The house at 4104 Woodberry has cable wires hanging very low in the street.

Mike Jakub, Beechwood and Underwood Street (via e-mail)

- The site selection process was well thought out and implemented and believes that the Memorial site would be well received by the Veterans and the majority of the Town residents.
- The site is conveniently located and will not place an unnecessary traffic or other burden to those who live near it.

Jenny Glenn, Woodberry Street

- Why is it important to move forward quickly in the decision for the site of the Memorial? Also, in the make-up of the Committee and the people walking around looking at sites, what was the relative distribution of Wards in the people who participated?

(Ms. Christiansen responded that one of the concerns here is that this has been an eighteen month process that isn't finished at all yet. She also pointed out that Mr. Carey went to great lengths to reach out and offer the possibly to be on this Committee to a lot of people. Mr. Carey responded that the participants who selected the site were well distributed throughout the town.)

- The area is very swampy. There are questions of law suits.

Julie Enszer, Wells Parkway

- Still waiting for the traffic study, about this area, to be made available for review.
- School bus routes in the community change every few years.
- There is an environmental concern due to dogs being walked in the area.
- She vigorously objects to the notes that were taken from the Committee hearing, there

was strong opposition from neighbors about this Memorial, a lot of people opposed it, to read those notes, you would never know it.

- She is very skeptical that the process was very thorough since the neighbors were notified after the designs were put up.

(Mayor Tabori responded that he is not aware of any traffic study in that area.)

Gary Williams, 6803 Pineway

- He stated that he and his wife were quite aware of this project through the town newsletter.
- Does not understand what impact the Memorial would have on the traffic in that area, there will only be a gathering there once or twice a year.
- Would like to see this Memorial put in a public space.

Sara Jean Thompson

- Has always enjoyed going to the 911 Memorial.
- Has attended the two Veterans Day celebrations and there were a lot of chairs but not a lot of people.

Mary Baugher, 44th Avenue

- Believes as well as many others who have come to her, that the proposed public site that would honor Veterans is a good choice.
- Mentioned that the events that will be held will either be on a government holiday or on a Sunday.
- The Azalea Classic causes traffic within University Park, yet, she supports this community public event since it is so beneficial.
- Mr. Gekas asked to look at another site to get a comparison of cost. Ms. Baugher responded that this would not be fair to ask for another design at another site just for comparison because this is an expensive process.
- The project needs to move forward in order to apply for grants which will help keep the cost down.

Tiegh Thompson, 41st Avenue

- As a committee member, he pointed out that the committee has tried to be helpful and work within guidelines but the community will make the final decision. He presented a simple plan that he had designed at the beginning of this project which would keep the cost way down.

Joann Williams, Pineway

- Pointed out that this process has been a model process and if we start all over again, this has the potential of the project going on forever. Of course some people will think that there are better places for the Memorial, which is expected. She had nothing to do with this project but was well aware of what was going on through the newsletter and e-mails. The committee deserves credit for their careful work.

Colin Ferguson, 41st and Tennyson

- As a committee member and current Maryland guardsman, stated that he wouldn't say this project is urgent but there are times in history when there is interest in funding things and there are times when there is not. As political positions change and public sentiment changes, so does funding, he feels this project should move forward. He

personally feels that having something that stands out on the border of town that people can see is important but understands that the residents that border this area do not share the same opinion.

Lisa Thompson Taylor, 41st Avenue

- Stated that she might be able to find some funding for this project.

David Brosch - Council Member

- Stressed that every effort was made to try and give people a chance to be part of the process.
- Does not agree that there will be a traffic issue.
- Would like to see the design be relatively simple and spend the extra money on helping the veterans.

Arlene Christiansen - Council Member

- Received from six of her constituents that they are concerned about the cost and the need of a Memorial.
- Suggested that the Town have an on-going living memorial fund.

6. PERMITS

A. APPLICATION TO ERECT A 4 FOOT WELDED WIRE FENCE (Adam Weiss, 4315 Woodberry Street) Ward 4

Motion: To approve the application to erect 4' welded wire fence located on Lot: 9, Block: 24 Section: 6A at 4315 Woodberry Street.

Moved by: Mr. Carey
Yea: 5

Seconded by: Mr. Gekas
Nay: 0 **Abstain:** 0

B. APPLICATION TO ERECT A 4 FOOT WOOD FENCE (Church of the Brethren, 6412 Baltimore Avenue) Ward 1

Motion: To approve the application to erect a 4' wood fence located on the north half of Lot: 3, and the south half of Lot: 4, Block: 2 Section: 1 at 6412 Baltimore Avenue.

Moved by: Mr. Brosch
Yea: 5

Seconded by: Ms. Christiansen
Nay: 0 **Abstain:** 0

7. DEPARTMENT AND COUNCIL REPORTS

A. MAYOR'S REPORT ~ *Mayor John Rogard Tabori*

- Tuesday, May 6th the Town Election will be held at Riverdale Presbyterian Church from 8am – 8pm for the offices of Mayor and Council Members for Ward 1, 3 and 7.
- A Constant Yield Tax Rate Hearing will be held on May 19, as well as the final vote on the FY 2015 Budget. The Constant Yield advertisement has been placed in the newspaper.
- A draft copy of the College Park TDDP is available at Town Hall for those who are interested. Mayor Tabori will contact a representative to schedule a briefing of the Council in an open session in regard to the College Park TDDP.

B. REPORT ON THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ~ *Michael Beall*

- The recent recycling event was very successful, with more than 7,000 lbs. of electronics.
- University Park will be hosting shredding in the Fall. Based on last year's results, it was decided that shredding will be done once a year.
- New bollards have replaced the utility poles at the intersection of Wells Parkway and College Heights Drive. More bollards will be purchased over the summer for the intersection of Chancery and Calverton.
- Commended Mr. Hall, public works mechanic, for the hard work on replacing the cab of the leaf truck.
- Reported that the two missing street signs along Rt. 1 will soon be replaced.
- Mr. Carey reported that he has recently been told by residents that the public works staff do a very good job and are highly responsive to the people of the town, adding to a sense of community.

C. COUNCIL REPORTS

Ms. Christiansen – current Chair of the Council Advisory Committee on Development issues announced a meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at UPES all purpose room for residents to voice their opinions to the planning group of the Prince Georges Plaza Transit District Development Plan and Transit District Overlay Zone. Ms. Christiansen also encouraged residents to join the Committee.

Mr. Alvarez - A Tree Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

8. CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. BUDGET HEARING AND DISCUSSION

Mayor Tabori, The Council and Dan Baden continued discussions on the FY 2015 proposed budget.

- Request for \$5,000 for the FY 2015 Budget from Adam Ortiz, Director, DER and Patrick Wojahn, Council Member, College Park to partner with surrounding municipalities for a feasibility study that would evaluate the level of need, staffing levels, location, size and functions of the site to build a second animal shelter in the 4-cities area.
(Municipalities include; College Park, Berwyn Heights, New Carrollton, Greenbelt, Hyattsville and Riverdale Park)

The Council agreed to add a new line item called North County Animal Shelter Study and to put \$100 down with a promise to the group that the full \$5,000.00 will be considered after reviewing the proposed study.

B. LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 14-O-05: Fiscal 2015 Budget (2nd Reading)

This Ordinance will be considered for passage on May 19, 2014. A super majority is required to adopt the budget.

Motion: To approve the adoption of Legislative Resolution 14-O-05: Fiscal 2015 Budget.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Yea:

Nay:

Abstain:

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. TO RECONSIDER THE LOCATION OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL SITE LOCATED ON THE WELLS RUN SIDE OF THE INTERSECTION OF WELLS PARKWAY, CLAGETT ROAD, AND EVERSFIELD DRIVE RESOLUTION 12-R-06 AND TO REQUEST THE VETERANS MEMORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDER ADDITIONAL SITES

Motion: To authorize the Town Council to reconsider Resolution 12-R-06 for the Veterans Memorial site.

Moved by: Mr. Alvarez

Seconded by: Mr. Gekas

Roll Call Vote:	Brosch	Nay
	Gekas	Yea
	Christiansen	Nay
	Carey	Nay
	Alvarez	Yea

Yea: 2

Nay: 3

Abstain: 0

Note: The Veterans Memorial Design Advisory Committee will give a presentation on June 2, 2014.

10. ADJOURNMENT by consent at 10:05 p.m.