



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 7:00 PM

Kevin Ward, W1, Interim Mayor
Carrianna Suiter, W3, Council Vice President
Bart Lawrence, W1
Robert Croslin, W2
Danny Schaible, W2
Ben Simasek, W3
Edouard Haba, W4
Daniel Peabody, W4
Joseph A. Solomon, W5
Erica Spell Wolf, W5

Absent: None

Also present were the following City staff members:
Tracey Douglas, City Administrator
Ron Brooks, City Treasurer
Interim Chief Scott Dunklee, Hyattsville City Police Department
Laura Reams, City Clerk
Sean Corcoran, Deputy City Clerk
Jan Guszynski, Project Liaison to City Administrator

Meeting Notice:

As we continue to take precautions due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, the Hyattsville City Council will hold its meeting on Monday, March 15, 2021 remotely via video conference. The Council meeting will be conducted entirely remotely; there will be no in-person meeting attendance.

The meeting will be broadcast live on cable television channel 71 (Comcast), channel 12 (Verizon), and available via live stream at www.hyattsville.org/meetings.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Public comment may be made using the e-comment feature at www.hyattsville.org/meetings or by emailing cityclerk@hyattsville.org. All electronic comments must be submitted by 5 PM on March 15, 2021. Comments received will be read by City staff during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Members of the public who wish to attend the virtual Council meeting must register in advance using the link below.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aWqLgmGCQXKm-B5gA5bFcA

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

Interim Mayor Kevin Ward called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 7:00 PM

3. Approval of Agenda

| | |
|------------------|---|
| RESULT: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Suiter |
| SECONDER: | Haba |
| AYES: | Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf |
| ABSENT: | None |

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.a) Approval of the Minutes

[HCC-260-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Minutes Feb 16 FINAL](#)

[Minutes Mar 1 2021 PH FINAL](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the City Council meeting minutes of February 16, 2021 and the Public Hearing minutes of March 1, 2021.

| | |
|------------------|---|
| RESULT: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Suiter |
| SECONDER: | Croslin |
| AYES: | Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf |
| ABSENT: | None |

5. Public Comment (7:10 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.) Complete Speaker Card, Limit 2 minutes per speaker

Deputy City Clerk Sean Corcoran read the public comments submitted electronically.

City resident Claire Panak Tombes addressed the Mayor and Council expressing concerns regarding dangerous traffic behavior on Oliver Street and 42nd Avenue as well as City streets in general. Ms. Tombes cited accidents, near accidents, and high speeds and stated that the process for traffic calming was not prompt and needed to be hastened to prevent more accidents and violations.

6. City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m. - 7:35 p.m.)

City Administrator Tracey Douglas addressed the Mayor and Council with updates regarding events and programming in the City reporting that the City had been approved for a COVID-19 vaccination site in collaboration with Luminis Health at the First United Methodist Church that was to begin on March 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. She stated that, additionally, there would be a mobile vaccination site at the Friendship Arms building and the City would be allowed to serve categories 1A, 1B, and 1C. Ms. Douglas showed a video featuring media coverage of the testing sites.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 7:00 PM

Ms. Douglas noted that the County's positivity rate had reached a new low of 4.3% reporting that many small businesses and services would return to a 50% capacity threshold and reminded that the City Building was still under limited access but operational and able to provide services and information.

Administrator Douglas relayed that food distributions throughout the City were still taking place in association with the Capital Area Food Bank and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide fresh food, produce, and dairy products to residents in need. She also cited the continued partnership with the DC Diaper Bank to distribute 20K diapers monthly to community families. She added that participants and leaders in the mentoring programs served as volunteers during an "Unplugged" program focused on compelling students to disconnect from video screens and contribute to outdoor activities. Ms. Douglas announced the incoming development of sports fields in April noting that some logistics and safety planning were being initiated.

Ms. Douglas reported that funding for restaurants, breweries, and likened services had been enacted and that applicants could file for up to \$2K in grant funding for COVID-19 recovery and that a similar fund for working artists and skilled tradespeople was scheduled to commence on April 1. She announced that funding had also been allocated to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) which would allow the entity to revise their budget and restore various transportation resources and routes throughout Hyattsville.

The City Administrator reported on the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) meeting schedule communicating the dates of meetings and the steps in the process from introduction to adoption.

Ms. Douglas recalled that **Ward 4 Councilmember Daniel Peabody** introduced phase 1 of the mental health program for Hyattsville City Police Department (HCPD) personnel which had been instituted and supplemented by mental health program manager Adrienne Augustus which had garnered interest from neighboring areas and departments. She reported that partnerships were being sought to assist with implementation of the overall encompassing mental health program and displayed an image of an HCPD officer addressing a mental health crisis which was peacefully resolved citing recent mental health training. She introduced a video of the local news covering the mental health initiative of the City.

Administrator Douglas expressed appreciation to all of those involved in the preparation for the 2021 City election in which candidate information sessions proved to be very successful resulting in over 40 participants which returned a total of 21 candidates, the largest turnout in recent history. Ms. Douglas referenced events for youth residents and Spanish resident outreach including providing information and creating informational videos in Spanish. She reported that ballot boxes would be installed in two (2) locations on April 1 and detailed several other aspects of the incoming election.

Ward 5 Councilmember Erica Spell Wolf requested that information regarding federal grant funding by the City Treasurer to which City Administrator Douglas replied that the City would be receiving approximately \$15M in federal funding but noted that nothing had been officially determined as of that time. She explained that conversations with State officials had taken place



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 7:00 PM

in preparation of the funds and City Treasurer Ron Brooks supplemented that the funding of municipalities would take place in two (2) 50% supplements and that the criteria associated with the use of funds would determine where funding could be applied. He added that the funds would likely be used for reimbursements of losses suffered due to the COVID-19 pandemic for small businesses, non-profits, and utilities such as water and sewer infrastructure.

7. Presentations (7:35 p.m. - 7:55 p.m.)

7.a) Presentation of the 2021 Election Candidates

[HCC-259-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

For Presentation

City Clerk Laura Reams introduced the Chair of the Board of Supervisors of Elections (BOSE) Greta Mosher. Ms. Mosher announced the certified candidates for the election and the term length of each seat. She provided details regarding pertinent dates of events, procedures, guidelines, regulations, and stated that election day was May 11, 2021, expressing her anticipation for a primarily all vote by mail election.

Ms. Reams offered the support of the City Clerk's office for any questions or comments.

7.b) Magruder Park Renaming – Presentation

[HCC-256-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Park Name Slides](#)

[Recommendations Memo Renaming Magruder Park updated 2 11 21](#)

Presentation

City Administrator Tracey Douglas introduced the item and introduced Stacie Whitesides of the Race and Equity Task Force (RETF) and Pete Reiniger of the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee (HWRAC) who would lead the presentation.

Ms. Whitesides began the presentation thanking Council for the opportunity and explained that the Joint Committee had been tasked with collecting, reviewing, and discussing potential new names for the City park known as Magruder Park. She supplemented that the new name should be relatable, inclusive, and should represent the diverse culture of the City as well as standing the test of time.

Mr. Reiniger reported that, in addition to the name change, a recommendation of the acknowledgement of the indigenous people to whom the land originally belonged to be represented in some permanent form within the Park and that the word "Community" be a part of the final name. He relayed the list of recommended names decided upon by the Joint



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 7:00 PM

Committee as a result of resident feedback. The first names announced were as follows: David C. Driskell Community Park, Nacotchtank Community Park, and Unity Community Park and a brief description and rationale for recommendation was given.

Ms. Whitesides announced the two (2) remaining name recommendations as: Gateway Community Park and Inspiration Park explaining that the land was located on the northern side of the Gateway Arts District and the park would serve as a gateway to programs, activities, and possibilities. She continued that Inspiration Park was recommended as the Park itself could compel inspiration through nature, community, group activity, and the programming provided there could inspire participants to explore the world outside of their immediate environment. She noted that Inspiration Park would be the only name with which the word "Community" would not be added.

Councilmember Spell Wolf thanked the Joint Committee for their work on the renaming project stating that she supported a name that was inclusive to those from all walks of life and thanked **Ward 5 Councilmember Joseph Solomon** for challenging the Body to work together to rename the park and discard any ties of prejudice.

Councilmember Solomon thanked the Committees for their efforts stating that he put forward the motion, but it was the willingness on behalf of the community that brought the initiative back before Council after being researched, discussed, and assessed.

Ward 2 Councilmember Robert Croslin stated that appreciation was to the Hyattsville Historical Society who conducted thorough research and provided a foundation from which the Council, staff, and volunteers could work.

8. Consent Items (7:55 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

8.a) DPW New Construction - Outfitting of New Vehicle Maintenance Bays [HCC-250-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Hyattsville Exhaust System Quote Through Sourcewell](#)

[Hyattsville Equipment Portion - Quote through Sourcewell](#)

[Hyattsville Lube Parts Final](#)

[Hyattsville Air and Lube Systems](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to purchase equipment for the outfitting of the new DPW facility vehicle maintenance bays from Liftnow for an amount not to exceed \$160,000.00. Liftnow was selected because they are a member of the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing agreement and can provide both turnkey sales & installation, as well as ongoing maintenance.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 7:00 PM

8.b) Nicholson Street Tree Planting Pilot Project

[HCC-251-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[2021 02 23 SMC ES-21-054 - Nicholson Street Improvements Construction Phase I, II and III \(1\) \(1\)](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council Authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$70,000 to Stormwater Management, LLC (SMC) for the installation of Silva Cells and Street trees on the 3100 block of Nicholson Street under their existing contract.

8.c) Award of Building Cleaning Contract

[HCC-252-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[210201 - RFP 20-001 - Sentral Services proposal](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with Sentral Services for cleaning of City buildings and authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$100,000 per year for the life of contract, pending review of the City Attorney.

8.d) Award of Landscape Maintenance Contract

[HCC-253-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Landscaping Maintenance Attachment \(revised\)](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a contract with Professional Lawn Maintenance Service (PLMS) to provide landscape maintenance in response to a request for proposal and authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$72,000 for the first year of the contract pending review of the City Attorney.

8.e) Award of Alley Maintenance Contract

[HCC-254-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[RFP DPW 20-003 - Alley maintenance - PLMS proposal](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with Professional Lawn Maintenance Service (PLMS) for alley maintenance in response to Request for Proposal (RFP) DPW 20-003, for an expenditure not to exceed \$30,000.00 pending review of the City Attorney.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 7:00 PM

8.f) Extension of current contract with Johnson, Mirmiran, and Thompson (JMT)

[HCC-255-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to execute an extension of two (2) years to the current contract with JMT. There are no other changes to the contract at this time.

8.g) Magruder Park Renaming - Schedule Public Hearing

[HCC-258-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

I move the Mayor and Council schedule a Public Hearing on the Magruder Park renaming suggestions for April 6, 2021 at 6 PM.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| RESULT: | APPROVED, AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Suiter |
| SECONDER: | None |
| AYES: | Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf |
| ABSENT: | None |

9. Action Items (8:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.)

9.a) Traffic Calming Decision - Oliver Street

[HCC-249-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator and DPW staff to conduct the following tasks: implement temporary traffic calming measures, conduct additional data collection, and further evaluate infrastructure to achieve traffic calming/mitigation on Oliver Street.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| RESULT: | APPROVED, AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Suiter |
| SECONDER: | Simasek |
| AYES: | Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf |
| ABSENT: | None |



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 7:00 PM

10. Discussion Items (8:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)

10.a) Magruder Park Renaming – Discussion

[HCC-257-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Park Name Slides](#)

[Recommendations Memo Renaming Magruder Park updated 2 11 21](#)

For Discussion

City Administrator Tracey Douglas stated that the item was an opportunity for Council to discuss and offer opinions and recommendations regarding the new name of Magruder Park and a decision would be made by City Council on April 5, 2021.

Ward 2 Councilmember Danny Schaible expressed that he was accepting of the proposals noting that he had viewed a documentary film about David Driskell on the recommendation of **Councilmember Croslin** and expressed an additional interest in honoring the indigenous people that were the original inhabitants of the land. He stated that improvements and upgrades to the park should be made reflective of the new name and local artists should be incorporated in the reimagining of the park.

Councilmember Solomon expressed support for “Inspiration Park” stating that “inspiration” encapsulated freedom and hope and would be a name and a theme that would serve future generations. He suggested that a name be given to the buildings set on the land as an opportunity to honor other important, associated, history as well as recommending a memorial acknowledging veterans.

Councilmember Solomon expressed opposition to naming the park after an individual as a themed, or ideal name would avoid any controversy encountered in future years. He reiterated that “Inspiration Park” would offer an invigorating feel for patrons and stated that it would be the responsibility of the Council to provide funding to improve the park and incorporate items that would compel inspiration.

Councilmember Croslin thanked the Joint Committee for their work and expressed support for naming the park after David C. Driskell stating that the City was lucky to have a world-renowned artist who spent most of his life as a resident and serving other residents of the City of Hyattsville. He opined that Mr. Driskell was an individual who helped Hyattsville be recognized and was a great reflection for the City’s ideals and vision.

Ward 3 Councilmember Ben Simasek stated that he was supportive of the park being named after David C. Driskell noting that he had succumbed to the COVID-19 virus during one of the most challenging years in recent history.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 7:00 PM

Ward 1 Councilmember Bart Lawrence expressed apprehension in naming a park after an individual and was supportive deciding on a name that would honor the indigenous landowners but noted that it was somewhat perverse that a group of people who were exterminated and removed from their land be honored by the same people responsible for their removal.

Ward 4 Councilmember Edouard Haba thanked those responsible for the effort and commended the narrowed list of names expressing his preference for an indigenous tribal name as opposed to an individual clarifying that the Body should move toward a name that will remain for decades in the future with the limited possibility for conflict or contention. He expressed support for “Nacotchtank” and “Inspiration Park” and noted that if “Unity” was chosen the word “Community” could be omitted to avoid redundancy.

Councilmember Simasek recognized that variances could be applied with the word “Community” in which the “unity” part of the larger world could be highlighted and other possibilities for word play could be presented. He stated that the Body should consider the wide support from participants that resulted in over a quarter of the votes submitted were for David C. Driskell Community Park.

Councilmember Spell Wolf stated that she preferred that the naming process be honored, and that the Council impose weighted interest for each name in association with the number of votes received. She expressed support for the incorporation of naming on-site buildings or structures.

Councilmember Schaible expressed his preference for “Nacotchtank” or “David C. Driskell Park” noting that he considered the comments of his colleagues, but still wanted naming the park after an individual to be an option. He reminded the Body that the item came to be in an attempt to correct historic error and honoring a resident such as David Driskell, a longtime Hyattsville community member who helped break racial barriers and succeed amid repeated challenges, would speak to the message that society was trying to relay.

Councilmember Haba concurred with the purpose of the item and noted that at the time of the original naming many believed William Magruder to be a great man and that over time these perspectives and opinions proved to be unfashionable and deemed unrespectable. He opined that the same thing could occur when naming the park after any individual and a name that would best transcend time should be chosen.

Councilmember Solomon argued that the presentation should not be misinterpreted and that even though a large number of votes were submitted for David Driskell it did not accurately reflect the overall opinion of the City’s residents. He noted that other names received a large number of submissions and were not ultimately included in the final list. He reiterated that the name should stand for several future generations.

Councilmember Croslin stated that the community at large was able to participate and their submissions should be respected. He explained that he so happened to be supportive of naming the park after David Driskell but also felt that it was in the interest of a majority of the City’s residents.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 7:00 PM

11. Council Dialogue (8:30 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.)

Councilmember Solomon thanked the participating Committees for their work on the renaming and was appreciative of the update regarding WMATA.

Councilmember Haba provided best wishes and hoped that all were remaining safe.

Councilmember Simasek thanked staff, specifically Reggie Bagley for his work in establishing the City's vaccination site advising all to seek out the vaccination and schedule to receive it when given the opportunity. He cited a Ward 3 check-in on March 31.

Councilmember Lawrence mentioned Hyattsville being highlighted in local news and advised the community to stay safe and get vaccinated as they were able.

Councilmember Peabody expressed appreciation for his own vaccination and supported that everyone does the same so that society could return to things as they were.

Councilmember Schaible expressed appreciation for the number of candidates for the 2021 City Election and for residents continuing to be active in their community.

Councilmember Croslin expressed great appreciation for City staff relaying that he was continually impressed by their hard work.

Councilmember Spell Wolf thanked staff for their consistent efforts, recommended all receive their vaccine if available, and commended teachers for their multi-faceted responsibilities during the health crisis.

Councilmember Solomon inquired as to the City's shredding services to which Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle answered that a shredding event would be scheduled for April 10 with an additional event possible in May.

Interim Mayor Ward echoed the sentiments of his colleagues, briefly commenting on the renaming of Magruder Park and the 2021 City Election.

12. Community Notices and Meetings

12.a) Main City Calendar March 16 - March 24, 2021

[HCC-261-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Main City Calendar Mar 16 - Mar 24, 2021 FINAL](#)



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 7:00 PM

13. Motion to Adjourn

| | |
|------------------|---|
| RESULT: | APPROVED, AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Croslin |
| SECONDER: | Suiter |
| AYES: | Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf |
| ABSENT: | None |

ATTEST:
April 5, 2021

Laura Reams, City Clerk

Sean Corcoran, Deputy City Clerk