

The City Council held a work session on Monday, September 19, 2016 in Council Chambers. A quorum being present, Commissioner Sydnor (Chair Pro-Tempore) called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those Commissioners in attendance were Commissioners Rideout, Sydnor, Foster, and Cannon. Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley and Commissioner Hanson were not present. Commissioner Sydnor called for a moment of silence. John Foster lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Agenda**

1. Council to approve or amend agenda as presented

Sandra Tripp-Jones asked to remove the City Reserves Policy from the agenda and schedule it for a different date.

A motion by Commissioner Cannon to approve the amended agenda was seconded by Commissioner Foster and approved 4:0.

### **Work Sessions**

2. SUBJECT: Public Art

Recommendation: That Council receive a presentation on by Michelle Potter, Gaithersburg Director of Parks.

Michelle Potter reported that public art is a powerful community asset. It can reflect the City's history, culture, and values. It can help define a create a sense of place, bridge the old with the new, and is accessible to all people which ties into socio-economic benefits. She showed a Power-Point presentation of the art in Gaithersburg and other cities. Art can be permanent or temporary. It is free and accessible for everyone to view.

3. SUBJECT: Gateway Project

Recommendation: That Council receive a report on and discuss the status of the Gateway Project and future work of the Committee.

Pat Escher reported that the former Burger King and adjacent gas station buildings have been demolished and the site cleared. The City has submitted a grant application to purchase an adjacent property and another application for façade improvements at the American Legion. She showed illustrations of different gateways and made suggestions for our gateway. Commissioner Sydnor said the billboard will be a challenge because of the long term (99 years) lease. We want something on that site to make a statement. Our purpose is to get travelers off Route 50 and down Maryland Avenue. Sandra Tripp-Jones said a member of the Committee is working with Channel Communication (owner of the billboard) to see if we can find an affordable way to relocate the sign. When we know if we have the ability to purchase the adjacent property, that very well may affect the design on the corner because it will give us more land.

Pat Escher said the City will get community input on the designs. There are a lot of things that have to happen before we do a design. Sandra Tripp-Jones said it will probably be about three years before it is ultimately complete.

Dave Harp suggested looking to the Maryland State Public Art Commission for funding. John Burtman asked about the possible of having a building so people can find out what is in Cambridge. Sandra Tripp-Jones said the City may want to look at an interactive kiosk in the downtown area.

Frank Narr, President of Sailwinds Park, Inc., said they are pleased with the way things are progressing. They did look into a State Arts Council grant. Unfortunately, the gateway is not in Cambridge's Arts & Entertainment District; therefore, they are not eligible for the grant funding. They were looking for design consultant fees and will continue to look for dollars. Commissioner Sydnor suggested looking into expanding our Arts & Entertainment District.

David Harp said when you mention Harriet Tubman you have culture and history which makes you eligible for the National Humanities Commission funding. The kiosk fits perfectly into that.

### **Adjourn**

A motion by Commissioner Cannon to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Commissioner Rideout and approved 4:0.

With no further business, Commissioner Sydnor adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m. I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, September 19, 2016, insofar as I personally am aware.

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Commissioner Sydnor  
Chair Pro-Tempore