



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

**APPROVED  
MINUTES**

The Montgomery County Planning Board met in a special session on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, at 4:07 p.m. in the Montgomery Regional Office in Silver Spring, Maryland, to discuss the Parks Department FY21 proposed budget, and adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Present were Chair Casey Anderson and Commissioners Tina Patterson and Partap Verma.

Vice Chair Natali Fani-González and Commissioner Gerald R. Cichy were necessarily absent.

Item 1 was removed from the Planning Board agenda.

Item 2 is reported on the attached agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Planning Board will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2019, in the Montgomery Regional Office in Silver Spring, Maryland.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Parsons".

James J. Parsons  
Sr. Technical Writer/Editor

**Montgomery County Planning Board Meeting  
Wednesday, October 23, 2019  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3760  
301-495-4600**

**~~1. Roundtable Discussion~~ — REMOVED**

- ~~Parks Director's Report~~

**BOARD ACTION**

**Motion:**

**Vote:**

**Yea:**

**Nay:**

**Other:**

**Action:      This Item was removed from the Planning Board agenda.**

**2. FY21 Operating Budget Discussion---Parks****BOARD ACTION****Motion:****Vote:****Yea:****Nay:****Other:****Action: Received briefing followed by discussion.**

Parks Department staff offered a multi-media presentation and discussed the FY21 proposed Operating Budget for the Park Fund. Staff noted that at the September 12 Planning Board meeting, the Central Administrative Services (CAS) Department reported that the assessable base for Montgomery County continued to grow by 25 percent from FY13 to FY20 and is estimated to grow by 3.56 percent in FY21. Preliminary estimates for increases in the Park Fund for salaries, benefits, retirement, Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB), and debt service on General Obligation (GO) bonds were also reviewed by CAS at the September 12 meeting. Since that time, staff has continued to review and to refine these estimates, and now projects an increase for compensation, excluding the markers for merit/Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) and reclassification, at \$1,522,775, a 1.5 percent change. A debt service increase on GO bonds for Capital Improvements Program (CIP) projects is currently estimated at \$541,000.

Staff then discussed Major Known Commitments, which include inflationary, contractual, and mandated increases, as well as increases for operating budget impacts (OBI) for CIP projects and developer-built parks. Excluding the OBI for the Wheaton Headquarters (Wheaton HQ) building, these increases total \$2,597,488, a 2.5 percent increase over the FY20 adopted budget. Of that total, \$297,309 is related to the Water Quality Protection Fund (WQPF), and if approved, will be offset by increased revenue from that fund. The OBI for the Wheaton HQ will add \$481,404 to the cost, for an overall increase of \$4,661,263 in Major Known Commitments, which is a 4.6% increase over the FY20 adopted operating budget.

Staff then discussed Program Enhancements, as detailed in the October 16 technical staff report, which include the following requests: 1) \$55,903 for customer service improvements; 2) \$240,873 for ballfield quality and playability improvements; 3) \$247,126 to address legislative mandates; 4) \$490,321 for maintenance and improvements for existing facilities and services; 5) \$87,500 for park activation and activity costs; 6) \$234,681 to address social equity issues; and 7) \$327,040 for the Parks Department share of Commission-Wide Information Technology (IT) fund and Chief Information Officer (CIO) allocation. Staff noted that Program Enhancement requests total \$1,683,444, a 1.7 percent increase over the FY20 adopted operating budget, with the total cost increase for Major Known Commitments and Program Enhancements as proposed at \$6,344,707, a 6.2 percent increase over the FY20 adopted operating budget.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**2. FY21 Operating Budget Discussion**

CONTINUED

There followed extensive Board discussion with questions to staff, during which Commissioner Patterson recommended that staff include specific details, data, and goals to justify the need for each Program Enhancement request when presenting the proposed Operating Budget to the County Council.