



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Deb Jung, Chair
District 4

Liz Walsh, Vice Chair
District 1

Opel Jones
District 2

Christiana Rigby
District 3

David Yungmann
District 5

Minutes – Approved

Capital Budget Work Session #2

Friday, April 19, 2024

Hybrid Meeting (In-Person and WebEx)

Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>
10:00 a.m.

Chair Jung opened the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Council members present: Chair Deb Jung, Vice-Chair Liz Walsh, Council Member Opel Jones, Council Member Christiana Rigby, and Council Member David Yungmann.

Staff present: Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Office of Law; Lisa Geerman, Acting County Auditor; Lori Buchman, Auditor; Diane Zagorski-Kelly, Auditor; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Owen Kahn, Legislative Analyst; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant; and Brenda Smith, Administrative Aide were also present.

Administration staff: Noted below.

Agenda

Recreation & Parks (N Projects and R&P C Projects)

The Department of Recreation and Parks gave a presentation on their FY 2025 capital budget request, including proposed projects, grant requests, anticipated amendments, and the status and results of previous projects.

The Department responded to questions from the Council about use, recycling and elimination of artificial turfs; parking at Blandair Park; why the County pays to turf school fields; the money allocations in project N3108; details of the Savage Mill connection trail proposed as part of N3963; community gardens and public gardens; installing bird protection decals at the nature center project; tree removal and permeable surfaces at the Robinson Nature Center; pickleball courts; and details of the South Fulton Park project.

Technology (C Projects)

The Department of Technology and Communication Services gave a presentation on their FY 2025 capital budget request, including focusing on security and stability, infrastructure upgrades, and broadband.

The Department responded to questions from the Council about plans for replacing or phasing out all the radio costs and long-term plans to replace infrastructure; details about the proposed data center; the long-term financial practice of using GO bonds instead of PAYGO bonds; who is responsible for the central and secondary fiber broadband network; and the broadband user fee.

General County (C Projects)

The Director of the Department of Public Works introduced Department staff and their FY 2025 capital budget request. The Department responded to a question from the Council on potential grants in out-years.

The Department gave a presentation on facilities and the FY 2025 proposed capital budget, including a status update on recently funded projects and proposed projects in the coming fiscal year.

There was a discussion about the proposed indoor track facility. The Department responded to questions from the Council on the overall vision for the indoor track facility; plans to be a state of the art site for major statewide sporting events; creating a hydraulic banked indoor track facility; a feasibility study; cost sharing by the Stadium Authority or other regional partners; confirmation on the cost and timeline; space allocation at Troy Park; the benefit of having sporting opportunities for year round use; use of the \$2.5 million appropriation; and other options for regional parks, including in Fulton.

The Department responded to questions from the Council on the proposed indoor ice hockey rink including: the demand for hockey facilities; the potential for outside financing; bundling with the indoor track; priorities for sports facilities compared with other potential uses such as schools or a new police station; location of these facilities so that they are easily accessible by the population centers; and details about the estimated cost of \$20 million.

There was general discussion of various other General County projects including: community pools throughout the County; County allocations for amenities between Council districts; systemic facility improvements; plan for the Rockland Arts Building; efforts to offer the building for pre-K programs; the status is of the Long Reach Village Center; transitioning to electric vehicles; and the construction of the charging stations.

The Department responded to questions from the Council about the New Cultural Center. Highlights included: the repricing of the New Cultural Center and everything that had changed on the project since the last discussion; requirements for the general contractor and sub-contractor; whether the general contractor has agreed to a scope of work or a guaranteed maximum price; and if the Housing Commission could build apartments without the renovations going through first.

General County projects will continue Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

Chair Jung closed the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Council requested follow up:

- *Chair Jung requested more information from the providers on artificial turf, including how much is recycled and what is done with the turf after it is used.*
- *Council Member Rigby requested updated information on the project status and design details for project N3963.*
- *Chair Jung requested additional information about the timeline for installing bird protection decals.*
- *Chair Jung asked for more information about the status of the South Fulton Park.*
- *Chair Jung requested information about DPW grants in out-years.*
- *Chair Jung asked if the Administration has had discussions with the State Stadium Authority or other regional partners about the indoor track facility.*
- *Chair Jung asked for documentation on the cost estimate for the indoor track.*
- *Council Member Walsh requested a summary of previous planning efforts for the indoor track facility.*
- *Council Member Walsh asked if the Administration had reached an agreement with the Divine Nine that would circumvent the necessity of Council approval.*
- *Council Member Walsh asked if the Administration had looked into the feasibility about offering the Rockland Arts Building to a Pre-K program to meet Kirwan standards.*
- *Council Member Walsh asked DPW what the status is and for details of the Long Reach Village Center RFP.*

4/19/2024 CIP Work Session Attendee List:

Budget

Holly Sun
Brook Mamo

DPW

Yosef Kebede
John Seefried
Susan Voyce

Finance

Rafiu Ighile
Angie Price
John Vu

Executive Team

Brandee Ganz
Raul Delerme
Angela Cabellon

Recreation and Parks

Nicholas Mooneyhan
Nicola Morgal
Bob Linz
Bryan Moody
Brenda Mercado
Jason Thompson
Scott Munroe

Technology and Communications

TJ Mayotte
Sandro Tello
Lisa Harold

General County

DPW

Sharon Walsh
Tae Jung

DPW (cont.)

Zach Hollenbeck
Kenn Hamm
Mark Deluca
Mark Richmond
Emily Iacchei
Daniel D

Corrections

Margaret Chippendale
Gregory Smith
Scott Tilton

DCRS

Jackie R. Scott
Cheryl Mattis
Kellie Brown
Erin Bonzon
Ofelia Ross
Kim Eisenreich

OoT

Clarence Dickerson
Christopher Eatough
David Cookson
Carrie Anderson-Watters

Administration

Carl Delorenzo

Fleet

Robert Phillips
Gary Bois

OCS

Lindsay DeMarzo
Leah Miller

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Persons needing accommodations to fully participate in the meeting, please contact the Council Office, 410-313-2001.