

# APPENDIX C

## Tydings Park Commission

Regular Meeting

09 September 2015



### Committee Members:

Michael Hitchings, City Council, Chairperson  
David Martin, City Council  
Mark Hemler, Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps  
Scott Hurst, Chief, Susquehanna Hose Company  
Mary Martin  
James Clark  
Jan Vanderhoff  
Darryl Leonetti (ABSENT)  
Philip Powell  
Debby Stathes  
Patrick Sypolt - Director of Administration  
John Allen - Directorate of Public Works

### Location:

Tydings Park

### Discussion/Notes:

The following represents a summary of notes as captured by Councilman Michael Hitchings during the on-site visit to Tydings Park by the Commission.

1. The Commission conducted a walking tour & observation of Tydings Park. The group met & convened near the gazebo and began discussion.
2. Councilman Hitchings provided a handout that included survey question recommendations as provided by Ms. Stathes and Councilman Martin.
3. Debby Stathes provided an observations summary from an on site visit by Ms. Terry and Mr. Bruce Galloway. They are experienced natural resource planners and during a visit to Havre de Grace provided an objective and independent review of the park's current state. This summary is attached to these notes as Appendix 1.
4. The group then proceeded to the west end of the park, in the location of the former tennis courts to begin observations.
5. Councilman Martin made note that "the box" does not exist anymore. This group should not feel confined by any pre-existing constraints. Instead, all ideas should be considered viable.
6. Quality of life improvements were considered, including bathrooms and changing rooms on the upper level where the currently only exist on the lower level of the park at the east end.
7. There is a desire to keep the west plateau as open and flexible space without permanent development.
8. Should sidewalks be provided along with established walkways that would promote natural walking areas and reduce stresses on grassed areas?



9. Parking should be considered as well.
  - a. We could adjust the centerline of Commerce Street allowing for angled in parking adjacent to the park.
  - b. We could keep the centerline of Commerce Street in its current location, and sacrifice some of the park property in favor of additional angled in parking.
10. Mark Hemler mentioned that the City has access to a large pavilion behind the Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps building on MD 155. It is 50' x 100'. It can be rented by Corps members.
11. There is a radio/broadcast tower in the west end of the park.
  - a. What is its current status?
12. Cool shade is critical to maximum use of the park and playground areas.
13. The group then proceeded to the swale areas.
14. The observation was made that this area will not remain green as long as trucks and trailers continue to use it for overflow parking.
15. There could be a soft terrace or concrete pad placed at the south end of the swale with stubbed utilities that could support a proposed mobile stage/shell for events without installing a permanent fixture.
16. The group discussed the possibility of shifting the primary boat launch and parking areas to the northern end of town in the vicinity of Jean Roberts Park and the County/City owned park lands on Water Street.
17. The group then proceeded to the playground area.
18. The current orientation, size, location, and use are not required to be maintained.
19. It could be shifted, enlarged, and structured to support ADA compliance and inclusion of all children. The current setup does not support ADA compliance.
20. The playground should incorporate the monumental trees without providing them with additional stress.
21. Uplighting could be incorporated into the playground areas.
22. There could be an area incorporated into the playground that would support younger children too, allowing for a separation of ages.
23. Councilman Hitchings asked the Commission to consider incorporating the park island into the park's use.
24. An elevated boardwalk could be provided at the west end of the park that could allow for smaller boat traffic to utilize the western channel, but also connect to the island.
25. The island could support additional piers & slips, likely without power/water.
26. The island could be moderately developed with a walking path, seating areas, picnic areas, etc. This would create an additional destination location for the park.
27. The group then proceeded to the mid-park/gazebo area.
28. The current seating, grilling, and picnic pads are no longer acceptable. They are worn, upheaved, and are in need to rehabilitation.
29. Is the gazebo an historic building? Does it require protection?



Regular Meeting

30. If it can be modified, thoughts include expanding the footprint, making it ADA compliant, expanding the roof and platform to support using it for concerts in the park and other performance events. Lights, power, and utilities will need to be upgraded.
31. The group proceeded to the memorial area.
32. This area is in desperate need of landscaping. The upheaved pavers need to be removed. Concrete sidewalks are proposed for ease of maintenance. These can be accented with pavers, but not as the primary walking surface.
33. Hard angles should be eliminated and gentle sweeps introduced.
34. Pathway lights and uplights should be introduced. Memorials should be uplighted as well as all flags.
35. The Franklin Tree is a historic tree. Councilman will collect information on its relevance from the Tree Commission and relay it back to this commission.
36. The group then proceeded to the ramp at the east end of the park, and into the parking lot area.
37. There MUST be at least one ADA compliant ramp providing access to the parking lot and lower levels.
38. The current slope should be stabilized.
39. There is an area adjacent to the bathrooms that has permanent flooding. The source of the water should be found and addressed.
40. The slope could be terraced with planting and seating areas introduced.
41. An overlook deck with observation scopes (pay binoculars) could be introduced.
42. The parking lot could have additional boat spaces introduced to relieve pressure on the swale & slope areas.
43. Micro-bioretenion and infiltration should be introduced into the parking lot to break up the blacktop surface and allow for natural infiltration of surface waters before they flow into the harbor.
44. The group met back at the original meeting area where primary park stressors were discussed.
45. Stressors included the Independence Day Carnival, Seafood Festival, and Arts Festival (not the children's arts festival).
46. These events bring heavy equipment, trucks, and directed foot traffic into the park. This causes damage to the grounds.
47. Considerations include moving these into the parking lot exclusively, moving them to other locations, and other ideas yet to be named.
48. Additionally Scott Hurst distributed information to the group relating to mobile stages and platforms. This information will be added to the file and incorporated into the report presented to the Mayor/Council.
49. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM with the next meeting scheduled for 23 September 2015 in the City Council Chambers.
- 50.



APPENDIX 1

Saturday, September 5, 2015

About 6pm

On Saturday evening, I invited two friends, Terry and Bruce Galloway, to walk through Tydings Park with me and let me know what actions they thought would improve the park, maintain the tone of the park, allow the environment of the park to survive, and enhance the public use and enjoyment of the park. I did tell Bruce that the City of Havre de Grace wants the playground to be ADA compliant.

Terry Galloway is a retired arborist who worked at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Bruce Galloway is a recently retired, as of last Thursday, city planner who has worked with the town governments of Rehobeth Beach and Bethany Beach, Delaware, and New Market, Maryland. His focus was primarily zoning and planning.

At this time, Tydings Park was being well and appropriately used. Three large groups of people were having parties/cookouts. The playground was being well utilized. Lots of kids and parents. Tydings Park was at its best. About a hundred people were utilizing the park.

Goals of Park improvement:

1. to protect the waterfront
2. To provide green space for the public
3. To maintain tone and the character of the park

First observations

1. Spectacular view
2. Wouldn't it be great if Annapolis had something like this
3. Ideal public park
4. Swale is beautiful

Focused observations

1. Old Tennis Court Area  
Don't put active recreation on this area such as playgrounds, courts, or any other permanent structure. Rather, retain the space for flexible use. At the most, place picnic tables in the area. Any type of building would be crazy. Their words.  
Retain the spectacular view.
2. The Swale  
Get rid of the boats and trailers.  
Get rid of really big boats. One was leaving while we were in the park.  
Retain unobstructed view.



3. The Playground
  - Keep playground where it is.
  - The playground is well situated regarding the bandstand. Adults listening to a concert can monitor the activities of their children.
  - Provides a central focus for the park.
  - The park can easily be made ADA compliant.
  - The park can easily be made fully accessible.
  
4. Parking
  - Shift the center line of Commerce Street to create more space on the park side.
  - Park cars diagonally, backing in on the park side of Commerce, in order to maximize parking.
  - Do not allow cars or trucks in the park.
  - Create rain gardens in the parking lot.
  
5. Drainage
  - Terrace the hill.
  
6. Green Space
  - No vehicles in the park.
  - Create rain gardens around the trees determined by each tree's drip line.
  
7. Public Toilets
  - Create a zig-zag path down the hill to the toilets.
  
8. General
  - Place about three times the number of picnic tables currently in the park for flexible usage.
  - Diminish impact of parking lot.
  - Protect anything inside the drip line of trees.
  - No trucks or trailers in the park.

# Tydings Park Commission

23 September 2015



Regular Meeting

## Committee Members:

Michael Hitchings, City Council, Chairperson

David Martin, City Council

Mark Hemler, Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps

Scott Hurst, Chief, Susquehanna Hose Company (ABSENT)

Mary Martin

James Clark

Jan Vanderhoff

Darryl Leonetti

Philip Powell

Debby Stathes (ABSENT)

Patrick Sypolt - Director of Administration

John Allen - Directorate of Public Works (ABSENT)

## Location:

City Hall, Meeting Room

Convene: 605P

## **Discussion/Notes:**

1. Parking
  - 1.1. Are there parking concerns at the park itself?
  - 1.2. Is the parking an issue at the street level v. the yacht basin?
    - 1.2.1. During fair weather events, Commerce Street
2. Public Engagement
  - 2.1. How do we engage the general public and our related special interest groups.
  - 2.2. Governmental Organization Outreach
  - 2.3. Over the course of the next couple of meetings, we can plan to have public groups and general public input sessions.
    - 2.3.1. Each meeting could be ~2 hours
    - 2.3.2. First meeting planned for 21 October 2015 from 6 - 8PM
    - 2.3.3. Second meeting planned for 04 November 2015 from 6 - 8PM.
      - 2.3.3.1. We could request a stenographer to take minutes.
      - 2.3.3.2. First hour - public groups and organizations
      - 2.3.3.3. Second hour - general public
        - 2.3.3.3.1. Open comments, time limited to 3 minutes per person
      - 2.3.3.4. This would be reception of comments not a question & answer session.
    - 2.3.4. Public Interest groups include:
      - 2.3.4.1. Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB)
        - 2.3.4.1.1. \_\_, Chair
        - 2.3.4.1.2. \_\_, Council Liaison



- 2.3.4.2. Historic Preservation Committee
  - 2.3.4.2.1. Ron Browning, Chair
  - 2.3.4.2.2. Monica Worrell, Council Liaison
- 2.3.4.3. Tree Commission
  - 2.3.4.3.1. \_\_\_, Chair
  - 2.3.4.3.2. Michael Hltchings, Council Liaison
- 2.3.4.4. Planning Committee
  - 2.3.4.4.1. Volney Ford, Chair
  - 2.3.4.4.2. Michael Hitchings, Council Liaison
- 2.3.4.5. Tourism Advisory Board
  - 2.3.4.5.1. \_\_\_, Chair
  - 2.3.4.5.2. David Martin, Council Liaison
- 2.3.4.6. Parks & Harbor Committee
  - 2.3.4.6.1. \_\_\_, Chair
  - 2.3.4.6.2. David Martin, Council Liaison
- 2.3.4.7. Parks & Recreation Committee
  - 2.3.4.7.1. John Narvell, Chair
  - 2.3.4.7.2. Michael Hitchings, Council Liaison
- 2.3.4.8. Marina Commission
  - 2.3.4.8.1. \_\_\_, Chair
  - 2.3.4.8.2. David Glenn, Council Liaison
- 2.3.4.9. Independence Day Committee
  - 2.3.4.9.1. Charlie Mike, Chair
- 2.3.4.10. Public Safety Committee
  - 2.3.4.10.1. \_\_\_, Chair
  - 2.3.4.10.2. David Glenn, Council Liaison
  - 2.3.4.10.3. EMS, Fire, Police Department should all be allowed to have their allotment.
- 2.3.4.11. Public Works Commission
  - 2.3.4.11.1. \_\_\_, Chair
  - 2.3.4.11.2. Randy Craig, Council Liaison
- 2.3.4.12. Arts Commission
  - 2.3.4.12.1. \_\_\_, Chair
  - 2.3.4.12.2. Randy Craig, Council Liaison
  - 2.3.4.12.3. Arts Commission (C. Foley) needs feedback by January 2016 whether they can plan to have their events in Tydings park for the 2016 season; or will their work be impacted by potential construction work?
    - 2.3.4.12.3.1. Given the timeframe of recommendations, there are a significant number of factors that must be considered (budget year, site development, permits, engineering, etc.) prior to the start of work.





## Regular Meeting

3. Reflect on the 09 September 2015 field trip:
  - 3.1. CM Martin - could an observation deck be constructed in the northeast corner of the park to support Chesapeake Bay overlooks?
  - 3.2. Has the seepage from the hill been sampled and analyzed?
    - 3.2.1. Not to the best of our knowledge.
    - 3.2.2. The City (DPW) could conduct some sample and analysis.
      - 3.2.2.1. ACTION: Hitchings: Contact L. Parks (DPW) regarding sampling and analysis of this water.
  - 3.3. D. Leonetti mentioned the potential for permanent scaping of the swale to support more permanent use.
    - 3.3.1. The swale could be terraced in a 4/2 manner (4 foot run / 2 foot rise).
    - 3.3.2. This could work in cooperation with a permanent or temporary stage.
    - 3.3.3. J. Vanderhof has concerns with the potential increase in activity, impacts to the residents, parking, public road access (i.e., road closures). She does not want to be concerned with going outside for nine months out of the year.
  - 3.4. Plateau & Playground
    - 3.4.1. Should it be used for playground areas or remain open and flexible?
    - 3.4.2. The playground should be expanded to support greater inclusion, use, etc.
    - 3.4.3. What are the benefits of moving the playground?
      - 3.4.3.1. It would potentially open up the north end of the park for other recreational uses.
      - 3.4.3.2. It could help focus any particular loads away from the center of the park.
    - 3.4.4. The plateau may currently be considered as wasted space.
      - 3.4.4.1. Primary use of the plateau by the playground may make better use of underutilized space.
    - 3.4.5. Would expansion of the park bring undesirable elements into the park unless it is designed to address certain ages of children.
    - 3.4.6. The playground may become a stress factor for the local residents if it brings in significant loading.
    - 3.4.7. If the playground is placed on the plateau, ADA compliant parking would need to be a consideration.
4. See the attached Letter written from Mayor David Craig to John Narvell, Recreation Committee Chair on 22 August 1986.
5. Survey
  - 5.1. Initially, there was a question (old item #12) that was considered leading. That has been removed from the current form.
  - 5.2. On the current form, Question #6 is a duplicate of the question asking for the respondent's zip code. We can remove #6 from the live version of the survey.
  - 5.3. The City can have the online version of the survey go live tomorrow morning (09/24).
  - 5.4. We should have them available for the October First Friday's.
  - 5.5. How do we facilitate collection?
    - 5.5.1. Place a realtor's box / mailbox at Tydings Park & one at Promenade Grille? (incentives for returns)
    - 5.5.2. Place a mailbox at City Hall?

## Tydings Park Commission

Regular Meeting

23 September 2015



6. Adjourn:
  - 6.1. Next meeting: 07 October 2015 at 6pm.
    - 6.1.1. CM Martin offered to bring pizza.

# Tydings Park Commission

Regular Meeting

14 October 2015



## Committee Members:

Michael Hitchings, City Council, Chairperson

David Martin, City Council

Mark Hemler, Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps (ABSENT)

Scott Hurst, Chief, Susquehanna Hose Company

Mary Martin

James Clark (ABSENT)

Jan Vanderhoff

Darryl Leonetti

Philip Powell

Debby Stathes

Patrick Sypolt - Director of Administration (ABSENT)

John Allen - Directorate of Public Works (ABSENT)

## Location:

City Hall, Meeting Room

Convene: 605P

## **Discussion/Notes:**

### Old Business

1. Public Engagement
  - a. 21 October 2015 Public Input Session
    - i. Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB)
      1. Chris Stathes, Chair
      2. Monica Worrell, Council Liaison
    - ii. Tourism Advisory Board
      1. Bill Watson, Chair
      2. David Martin, Council Liaison
    - iii. Arts Commission
      1. Pat Fair, Chair
      2. Randy Craig, Council Liaison
    - iv. Marina Commission
      1. Steve Young, Chair
      2. David Glenn, Council Liaison
    - v. Historic Preservation Committee
      1. Ron Browning, Chair
      2. Monica Worrell, Council Liaison
    - vi. Tree Commission
      1. Carole Andrews, Chair
      2. Michael Hitchings, Council Liaison

# Tydings Park Commission

## Regular Meeting

14 October 2015



- b. 03 November 2015 Public Input Session
  - i. Planning Committee
    1. Volney Ford, Chair
    2. Michael Hitchings, Council Liaison
  - ii. Parks & Harbor Committee
    1. \_\_\_, Chair
    2. David Martin, Council Liaison
  - iii. Parks & Recreation Committee
    1. John Narvell, Chair
    2. Michael Hitchings, Council Liaison
  - iv. Independence Day Committee
    1. Charlie Mike, Chair
  - v. Public Safety Committee
    1. \_\_\_, Chair
    2. David Glenn, Council Liaison
    3. EMS, Fire, Police Department should all be allowed to have their allotment.
  - vi. Public Works Commission
    1. \_\_\_, Chair
    2. Randy Craig, Council Liaison
2. If public asks questions; advise that we are taking questions as well as input from the public at this time. Part of the purpose we are there is to investigate these items.
3. Note on the door & on podium: This meeting is being recorded.
4. Request from Jeff Thompson
  - a. Countdown timer on TV screens
5. Prepare a list of items we have discussed & entertained.
  - a. Observation platform with pay-per-use binoculars
  - b. New/Larger playground
    - i. one playground with mixed use
    - ii. multiple playgrounds for typical and ADA tailored playgrounds.
  - c. Upgrade and/or larger gazebo
  - d. Splash / Misting park
  - e. Portable stage with permanent hookup at swale
  - f. Tiered/Terraced hill
  - g. Tiered/Terraced swale
  - h. Upgraded sidewalks
  - i. Additional/Upgraded bathrooms
  - j. Additional parking by angled in parking on Commerce Street
    - i. Can this be calculated for the Commission?
      1. Typical parallel parking spot length is 18-20'.
      2. Typical angled in parking is 12'9" at 45 degree parking.
  - k. Additional picnic areas



## Regular Meeting

- I. Volleyball or other courts/areas?
  - m. Move Independence Day Celebration Carnival into the parking lot only.
    - i. Provide the slip users with a shuttle from the Maritime Museum field.
  - n. Recommend relocation of the heavy use events in the park to alternate locations.
6. Publicity -
- a. Radio 104.7 & 103.7
  - b. News paper
  - c. City website
  - d. Patch, Facebook, Social Media, etc.
  - e. CTY ?
7. From Sybolt:
- a. Dimensions of the existing playground?
    - i. How much larger can we make the playground?
  - b. Availability of the engineering site plat?
    - i. contour lines, property edges, etc.
  - c. Full Size Map for Public Input Sessions?
- 8.

## New Business

1. New Items?
  - a. For Public Input Sessions - Slides reviewing
    - i. Charge/Charter
    - ii. Photos of the existing conditions
      1. To be provided by Phil and Scott.
    - iii. Commission has met and begun discussing the following items
      1. See list above
    - iv. No action is set in stone at this point and we are entertaining all thoughts, comments, recommendations, and ideas.
    - v. We ask that you please keep comments directed at the Commission only, not events or individuals. Anyone that does not follow this request will be asked to leave the podium.
2. Adjourn
  - a. Next Meeting 21 October 2015, 6pm, City Council Chambers
  - b. Future Meetings:
    - i. 21 October 2015 - Public Input Session
    - ii. 03 November 2015 - Public Input Session
    - iii. 18 November 2015 - Recap & Review
    - iv. 09 December 2015 - Prepare Initial Submission
  - c. Future Milestone
    - i. 18 December 2015 - Initial Submission to Mayor & Council
    - ii. 21 December 2015 - Presentation to Mayor & Council (at Council Meeting)
  - d. Adjourn: 1930



## **Tydings Park Commission**

21 October 2015

Public Input Session

### **Committee Members:**

Michael Hitchings, City Council, Chairperson

David Martin, City Council (ABSENT)

John Allen - Directorate of Public Works (ABSENT)

James Clark

Mark Hemler, Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps

Scott Hurst, Chief, Susquehanna Hose Company (ABSENT)

Darryl Leonetti (ABSENT)

Mary Martin

Philip Powell

Debby Stathes

Patrick Sypolt - Director of Administration

Jan Vanderhoff

### **Committees/Commissions/Groups:**

The following groups were invited to testify before this commission on this date.

Written testimony is being accepted for the file and will be attached to these notes as available.

1. Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB)
  - 1.1. Chris Stathes, Chair
2. Tourism Advisory Board
  - 2.1. Bill Watson, Chair
3. Arts Commission
  - 3.1. Pat Fair, Chair
4. Marina Commission
  - 4.1. Steve Young, Chair
5. Historic Preservation Committee
  - 5.1. Ron Browning, Chair
6. Tree Commission
  - 6.1. Carole Andrews, Chair
7. Parks & Recreation Committee
  - 7.1. John Narvell, Chair
8. Independence Day Committee
  - 8.1. Charlie Mike, Chair

### **Public:**

See notes below for those speaking.

### **Location:**

City Hall, Council Chambers

### **Convene:**



**Publication of Public Notice:**

The Tydings Park Commission will host two public input sessions on October 21, 2015 and November 3, 2015, both from 6-8 p.m. The public input sessions will take place at 711 Pennington Ave, Havre de Grace, MD 21078. The purpose of these public input sessions is to solicit input from various organizations and the general public. Feedback from invited City and community organizations will be solicited from 6-7 p.m. and open public comment will be received from 7-8 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Council Member Michael Hitchings, Chairman, Tydings Park Commission at [Michaelh@havredegracemd.com](mailto:Michaelh@havredegracemd.com)

Posted:

<http://www.havredegracemd.com/public-hearing-announcements/>

<https://www.facebook.com/havredegracemd?fref=ts>

**Agenda for Meeting:**

1. Commission Charter
2. Objectives
3. Commission Progress
4. Items discussed and considered
5. Photos from Tydings Park
6. Input from Commissions, Committees and selected Groups (6-7 PM)
7. Input from Public (7-8 PM)
8. Adjourn

NOTE: These proceedings are being recorded to help with transcription.

**Minutes:**

1. Commission Charter
2. Objectives
3. Commission Progress
4. Items discussed and considered
5. Photos from Tydings Park
6. Input from Commissions, Committees and selected Groups (6:00-6:45 PM)
  - a. Commentors advised: Please keep comments limited to 5 minutes per group/organization. A timer is displayed on the television screen to remind the presenter.
  - b. Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB)
    - i. Chris Stathes, Chair
    - ii. Met 21 Oct 2015
    - iii. Considered a valuable asset for preservation and enhancement.
    - iv. Recommendations for how to incorporate the use of downtown into the Tydings Park.



1. Information kiosk enhancements for shopping/dining options
2. Addition signage
3. Additional pathways for walkers
4. Potentially a shuttle for summer weekends to serve as a people mover.
  - a. For event attendees
  - b. For boaters
5. Wi-Fi hotspot
6. Charging stations for phones/computers
7. ATM for cash services
8. Charging station for electric vehicles
- v. Current uses (festivals)
  1. Are current events adding to the HdG brand in a positive way.
  2. Should be consideration into moving some events closer to downtown.
  3. Each festival should answer the question: Are residents using this event and are these users shopping/dining in the City. How do we encourage events to incorporate shopping/dining.
- c. Tourism Advisory Board (ABSENT)
  - i. Bill Watson, Chair
    1. Mr. Watson contacted CM Hitchings later in the evening on 21 Oct 2015 to advise that he had not been provided notice of the input session. He has been extended a formal invitation from CM Hitchings, and will appear at the 03 Nov 2015 session.
- d. Arts Commission (ABSENT)
  - i. Pat Fair, Chair
- e. Marina Commission
  - i. Bruce Lyon, Member of Commission
  - ii. One of only two enterprise funds in the City.
    1. Funds come from boat launch and trailer parking.
      - a. Access to ramp is critical.
    2. Request that minimal impacts to these parking areas.
    3. Additional parking is provided adjacent to Maritime Museum
      - a. Encourage additional parking in this location.
    4. Parking Lot is not part of the marina, marina starts at the bulkhead.
      - a. Parking lot is for the general public.
      - b. Some people park in this location to take tour busses to other locations.
      - c. Swale is the detrimental to the amount of revenue taken in.



## Tydings Park Commission

21 October 2015



### Public Input Session

- f. Historic Preservation Committee
  - i. Cathy Keen, Member
  - ii. Gazebo - built likely in early 1900's, erected by the City.
    - 1. Want to preserve this item.
    - 2. If changed, would like to have input into the disposition.
  - iii. Veterans Memorial
    - 1. If affected, please allow for input.
  - iv. Trees
    - 1. Vital part of the park, defer to the Tree Commission
    - 2. Please do not remove any trees.
- g. Tree Commission
  - i. Jim McFarland, Member (in audience Carole Andrews & Kathleen O'Brien)
  - ii. Review of Commission charter WRT the City
  - iii. 30 trees identified in park included in brochure.
  - iv. Request permanent place for brochures to highlight tree locations & uses. This is not readily accessible in the park.
  - v. Abuse to grounds from events.
    - 1. Vehicles on turf - upsetting to Commission
    - 2. Ground is compacted, impacting water flow, but does impact the park and vegetation
    - 3. Carnivals and other festivals are hosted on impervious surfaces.
    - 4. Some tree damage sustained in the past, none this year.
  - vi. Focus should be on the green space, not use for the events. Consider the park as an arboretum.
- 7. Recess at 6:30 to reconvene at 6:45
- 8. Input from Public (6:45-8:00 PM)
  - a. Commentors advised: Please keep comments limited to 3 minutes per individual. A timer is displayed on the television screen to remind the presenter.
  - b. Mary Ann McCauley - 601 Chesapeake Drive
    - i. Not like to see
      - 1. move playground
        - a. good current location and promotes sledding in winter
      - 2. no terracing of swale
      - 3. no widening of Commerce Street
    - ii. Would like to see
      - 1. Festivals limited to those that fit in the park, not those that flow onto Commerce Street
    - iii. Walking safety & Handicap Visitors
      - 1. Request installation of sidewalks throughout length of park
    - iv. Protect trees from damage

## Tydings Park Commission

21 October 2015



### Public Input Session

- v. Add more tables and benches in old tennis court areas.
- vi. What is the budget
  - 1. Is there funding, where does it come from, how much?
- c. Barbara Pensell - Congress Avenue
  - i. Lots of pressure applied to park
    - 1. ground, neighbors, music
    - 2. There are better venues for these types of events.
      - a. ARea between maritime museum and lighthouse is recommended with lesser impacts to the general public.
        - i. Additional parking is in this area to support these events.
- d. Rob Krizek - Commerce Street, across from park
  - i. Agree with previous comments
  - ii. Concerns with moving the playground, WRT traffic flow.
    - 1. Noticed (anecdotal) 200% increase in traffic on Commerce, often at high rates of speed.
    - 2. Moving playground would encourage traffic to go north on Commerce, where there is limited parking.
    - 3. General public use is very strong with walkers.
    - 4. Shift in parking may impact pedestrians, parking, and other uses.
    - 5. Q: How old is the equipment in the playground?
      - a. Upgrade, maintain, include
- e. John Vanderhoff- 553 Commerce Street, across from park
  - i. Echo the previous concerns
  - ii. PReserve the trees.
  - iii. Build a better lawn base.
  - iv. Playground - upgrade, maintain, include, color coordinate.
    - 1. Location - central to the park, supports some of the events (i.e., concerts in the park, etc.)
    - 2. Moving it to the edge of the park may provide less security due to private property and trees adjacent to the park.
  - v. Parking - additional parking
    - 1. May/could take away some of the turf from the park.
    - 2. Yacht basin parking is available
    - 3. Day-to-day basis shows open parking during most events.
  - vi. Swale
    - 1. active for sledding in winter months
- f. Belinda Miller - 261 Alliance St; lifelong resident
  - i. family uses the park all the time.
  - ii. park is used by many
  - iii. festivals are generally supported

## Tydings Park Commission

21 October 2015



### Public Input Session

- iv. does not support significant changes
- g. James Miller - 320 Lewis Street
  - i. Former City Councilman
  - ii. Parks and Marina Commission
  - iii. Sidewalks were approved on yacht basin side of the park.
  - iv. Upgrades to pathways have been approved.
    - 1. Uplifting shown was done by City crews and not park professionals
  - v. Impacts from heavy use events negatively impact the park.
    - 1. Susquehanna Hose Company has been asked to help water the park.
    - 2. Potentially move events to other locations
      - a. Hutchins Park/Festival Park
  - vi. Recommend to do nothing, but keep it as a family park.
    - 1. Do not take away from the family use of the park.
- h. Jim McCauley - 601 Chesapeake Drive
  - i. Agree with Jim Miller
  - ii. Q: Status of the former UM Environmental building? Could it be repurposed?
  - iii. Q: For Marina operators, pay to park?
    - 1. A: No pay for parking, only to launch boat.
    - 2. Observe that additional parking happens in swale, concerning.
- i. Kathleen O'Brien - 618 Lewis Street
  - i. Focus on families that use the park.
  - ii. It is a picture window to the bay. Needs to be kept this way.
    - 1. Michigan (Lake Superior) nobody owns waterfront, public owned.
    - 2. Would like to mirror large city parks for families to enjoy.
    - 3. Family has enjoyed the park in the past, but needs better grass & turf management.
  - iii. Covered pavilion with brick grill for all weather use.
  - iv. Playground should stay in primary colors.
    - 1. Pay attention to appropriate use of mulch
  - v. New steps
  - vi. Solar lighting
  - vii. Relocate major holiday events to Armory or other open spaces (HS/MS) with shuttled parking.
  - viii. Friend on S. Washington that shared experiences with unfavorable impacts to her property.
  - ix. No new parking
  - x. No ATM.
  - xi. No charging, no wi-fi, enjoy nature.

## Tydings Park Commission

21 October 2015



### Public Input Session

- xii. Fence - older style to enhance the park.
- xiii. Enjoy HdG for its beauty.
- xiv. Only public access in HarCo to the Bay; preserve this.
- xv. Keep waterfront, clean, healthy, safe, for families.
- j. Bruce Lyon - 353 Giles Street
  - i. With Respect To - Tree Commission
    - 1. Can we get more mature trees in some the new acquired property in the former Gamatoria property to provide shade in these areas to support more use and relocation of events.
- k. Neil Senate - Grace Harbor (formerly of Fountain Street)
  - i. Used park for past 40 years for 3 generations.
  - ii. Swings - can swing out over the parking lot, to look out over the Bay.
    - 1. Get rid of Park Island to a greater panoramic view.
    - 2. May be more attractive for entire Bay view.
  - iii. Jewel of the City
    - 1. Have a professional park designer involved in the process.
- l. Charlie Mike - 1413 Superior St.
  - i. Missing members is disappointing.
    - 1. Critical to the City
    - 2. Should have been better advertised.
    - 3. Survey should be better advertised.
      - a. Include it in the paper to be sent back to the City
  - ii. Park use for his life
    - 1. Ground is resilient, strong, restorable.
    - 2. Ground has survived and restored for at least last 62 years.
  - iii. Tree erosion is natural occurrence
  - iv. Park is a focal point for the City
    - 1. Memorial events
    - 2. events
    - 3. sledding
    - 4. all sort of events.
  - v. Please retain in kind
  - vi. Potential upgrades
    - 1. lighting
    - 2. playground
- 9. Kathleen Henry -- 659 Commerce St. (one block from park)
  - a. never seen a park used more than Tydings
    - i. Beautiful/Wonderful
    - ii. Enjoys seeing everyone using the park
      - 1. diverse socio-economic groups
      - 2. meetings, laughing, reading, dogs, mixed uses.

## Tydings Park Commission

21 October 2015



### Public Input Session

- iii. Not everyone has a yard
  - 1. Used for picnics
  - 2. Used as a yard
  - 3. Used in all seasons.
- iv. Swale
  - 1. Sledding - laughter carries...this is great!
- v. Playground
  - 1. Retain location
  - 2. ADA Compliance
- vi. Parking
  - 1. does not appear to be a concern
- vii. Protect trees, grass, picnic areas
- viii. Protect the view of the Bay for the public.
  - 1. Beautiful place for families
- b. Michael Hatem - 108 Market (formerly across the street in the Hatem House)
  - i. Support previous speaker
  - ii. Keep the nature of the park
  - iii. Western end of the park
    - 1. Floods due to how it was prepared.
    - 2. Use or disposition of cell tower
      - a. Can it be torn down?
      - b. Do we get any revenue?
- c. Rob Hendrickson (222 Robin Hood Road)
  - i. Trees - 2nd largest Bald Cypress in HarCo.
    - 1. Compaction directly impacts the root structure.
    - 2. Protect from other damage
      - a. nails, screws, weed-trimmers
    - 3. Trees get sick, old, die
      - a. If they need to be replaced, use MD native trees
- d. 908 S. Washington (former Hatem House)
  - i. New to HdG, but not HarCo.
  - ii. Restoring Hatem House.
  - iii. General agreement with comments.
  - iv. Concerns with closing the street for major events.
  - v. Parks generally left as a mess after events.
  - vi. Move large events to another location.
  - vii. Tree Commission - come see european beech tree in yard.
  - viii. Retain as beautiful, lush, green.
- e. Kathy Keen
  - i. Moving events - see the point being made, but visitors are seeing the vistas along Market St., Union Ave, etc and seeing the view.



1. Would not like to have visitors pushed to alternate locations.
  2. Location showcases the City's greatness.
- f. Garrett Lytle -
- i. Member of Independence Day Committee & former
  - ii. Committee has investigated other locations.
  - iii. Raise 43% of revenue (2015 >\$36,000) through the Carnival. Parade & Fireworks cost \$43K in 2015.
    1. Oktoberfest was >3,100 people. Observed crowded.
    2. This is a typical night for the Carnival.
    3. Fireworks night is 20-25K people in park.
      - a. They see the whole City
    4. Moving the Carnival would impact revenues.
- g. Kathleen O'Brien
- i. Move big events.
  - ii. Concerns with cancellation of events due to budgetary concerns.
    1. Other opportunities for fundraising events to support events. (i.e., collection cans in the markets)
  - iii. 4th of July use
    1. Traditional games - simple games.
    2. Encourage people to be outside.
- h. Carolyn Narvell - 454 Lewis Lane
- i. Misconceptions
    1. Different fundraiser events tried through the years to raise funds without general success.
    2. Other locations have been explored to no avail.
    3. Park Island houses the spoils from dredging
      - a. Any clearing would require replanting (Critical Area requirements).
  - ii. Park is for everyone, for diverse events.
    1. This is the City's backyard, and serves an array of uses.
    2. Please don't restrict the uses of the park.
- i. Sara Scholl - 799 S. Stokes
- i. Moved here due to proximity to park
  - ii. Teacher at HMS - upgrade the playground
  - iii. Park used as a field trip location for the school (HES, HMS, others).
- j. Nancy Brascher - 801 Lafayette (lifelong resident, 5+ generations)
- i. Lots of love for the park.
  - ii. Take care of what we have, not new items
    1. Playground
    2. Gazebo - needs restoration at a minimum

**Tydings Park Commission**  
Public Input Session

21 October 2015



- a. Promenade gazebo needs to be fixed (roof)
3. Fix first, then consider upgrades.
- k. Jim Miller -
  - i. Answers:
    1. UM Building - SEES building, owned by City, used as dockmaster's building.
    2. Tower relays signal from bouy to UM.
    3. Formerly known as Bayside Park.
      - a. Created in the 30's and Park Island created at that time.
  - l. Charlie Mike
    - i. About 10 years ago, there was an unfortunate incident at the park. He approached Dr. Hatem regarding cleaning up the park and adjacent properties. Dr. Hatem; "I hate that carnival, but I am a team player!"
10. Adjourn: 7:37PM


**NOTE:** Presentation shown on television screens to attendees at 6:00PM and 7:00PM session starts. Presentation attached to these notes.



# Tydings Park Commission Public Input Session

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21 October 2015  
6-8PM





# Agenda

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1. Commission Charter
2. Objectives
3. Commission Progress
4. Items discussed and considered
5. Photos from Tydings Park
6. Input from Commissions, Committees and selected Groups (6-7 PM)
7. Input from Public (7-8 PM)
8. Adjourn

NOTE: These proceedings are being recorded to help with transcription.

# Commission Charter

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- Created Under Executive Order 2015-02
- Duties:
  - Review state of the park
  - Review uses of the park
  - Assess potential uses for the park
  - Assess viability of potential uses
  - Provide recommendations to Mayor & Council
- Consists of twelve (12) members
  - Eight (8) Citizens of Havre de Grace
  - Two (2) Council members
  - Two (2) City staff members
- Introduction of Members

# Objectives

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First report due to Mayor and City Council

18 December 2015

Supplemental/Summary report due to Mayor and City Council

01 February 2016

# Commission Progress

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Meets twice monthly generally on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

The Commission has:

- Conducted on site and sit-down meetings

- Established a survey: [www.havredegracemd.com/tydings-park-survey/](http://www.havredegracemd.com/tydings-park-survey/)

No decisions have been made at this point.

The Commission is collecting information and looking at all alternatives.

# Items Discussed and Considered

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- a. Observation platform with pay-per-use binoculars
- b. New/Larger/Relocated playground
  - i. one playground with mixed use
  - ii. multiple playgrounds for typical and ADA tailored playgrounds.
- c. Upgrade and/or larger gazebo
- d. Splash / Misting park
- e. Portable stage with permanent hookup at swale

# Items Discussed and Considered

---

- f. Tiered/Terraced hill
- g. Tiered/Terraced swale
- h. Upgraded sidewalks
- i. Additional/Upgraded bathrooms
- j. Additional parking by angled in parking on Commerce Street
- k. Recommend relocation of heavy use events in park to alternate locations.
- l. Additional/Feature lighting



# Input Session

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6 - 7 PM - Selected Committees and Commissions

Please keep comments limited to 5 minutes per group/organization

7 -8 PM - General Public

Please keep comments limited to 3 minutes per individual

Please keep all comments directed at the park, its use, and your recommendations for future use. Please do not direct your comments at individuals; and please do not single out events. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in being asked to leave the podium.



# Tydings Park Commission

03 November 2015

## Public Input Session

### **Committee Members:**

Michael Hitchings, City Council, Chairperson  
David Martin, City Council  
John Allen - Directorate of Public Works (ABSENT)  
James Clark (ABSENT at start)  
Mark Hemler, Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps  
Scott Hurst, Chief, Susquehanna Hose Company  
Darryl Leonetti  
Mary Martin  
Philip Powell  
Debby Stathes  
Patrick Sybolt - Director of Administration  
Jan Vanderhoff

### **Committees/Commissions/Groups:**

The following groups were invited to testify before this commission on this date.

Written testimony is being accepted for the file and will be attached to these notes as available.

1. Tourism Advisory Board
  - 1.1. Chair, Bill Watson
2. Arts Commission
  - 2.1. Chair, Pat Fair
3. Parks & Harbor Committee
4. Parks & Recreation Committee
  - 4.1. Chair, John Narvell
5. Independence Day Committee
  - 5.1. Chair, Charlie Mike
6. Public Safety Committee
7. Public Works Commission
8. Harford County Public Library (at their request)
  - 8.1. Irmgarde Brown

### **Public:**

See notes below for those speaking.

### **Location:**

City Hall, Council Chambers

### **Convene:**

6:01PM

### **Publication of Public Notice:**

# Tydings Park Commission

03 November 2015

## Public Input Session

The Tydings Park Commission will host two public input sessions on October 21, 2015 and November 3, 2015, both from 6-8 p.m. The public input sessions will take place at 711 Pennington Ave, Havre de Grace, MD 21078. The purpose of these public input sessions is to solicit input from various organizations and the general public. Feedback from invited City and community organizations will be solicited from 6-7 p.m. and open public comment will be received from 7-8 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Council Member Michael Hitchings, Chairman, Tydings Park Commission at [Michaelh@havredegracemd.com](mailto:Michaelh@havredegracemd.com)

Posted:

<http://www.havredegracemd.com/public-hearing-announcements/>

<https://www.facebook.com/havredegracemd?fref=ts>

### **Agenda for Meeting:**

1. Commission Charter
2. Objectives
3. Commission Progress
4. Items discussed and considered
5. Photos from Tydings Park
6. Input from Commissions, Committees and selected Groups (6-7 PM)
7. Input from Public (7-8 PM)
8. Adjourn

NOTE: These proceedings are being recorded to help with transcription.

### **Minutes:**

1. Commission Charter
2. Objectives
3. Commission Progress
4. Items discussed and considered
5. Photos from Tydings Park
6. Input from Commissions, Committees and selected Groups (6:00-6:45 PM)
  - a. Commentors advised: Please keep comments limited to 5 minutes per group/organization. A timer is displayed on the television screen to remind the presenter.
  - b. Tourism Advisory Board
    - i. Chair, Bill Watson (as provided under separate cover)

*Tourism Advisory Board Remarks - Millard Tydings Park Commission*

*Councilman Hitchings, Commission Members:*

*Thank you for allowing the HdG Tourism Advisory Board the opportunity to present our remarks this evening before this very important commission.*

*The Tourism Advisory Board was established by ordinance to advise on matters that affect tourism development in our city. Pursuant to that charge we find it*

**Public Input Session**

*appropriate that we have been asked to offer the thoughts of our various tourism stakeholder members.*

*We consider Tydings Park to be a valuable asset both to our local residents and to tourists alike.*

*As chairman, I asked that member comments been confined to those associated with tourism only. We realize that some issues concerning the park's use may be domestic in nature, however, one can always make the argument that tourism is not defined by outside visitors only.*

*After collecting and redacting remarks from stakeholders on the board, these remarks can be placed in two key categories:*

- 1. Existing Structures, Amenities & Uses*
- 2. Expanded or New Amenities & Uses*

*Concerning existing uses and amenities:*

- 1. Everyone stated the importance of maintaining a healthy, vibrant park at the present location. All members believe that use of the park for family gatherings and events and waterfront access should continue. One member did express concern about the use of the park for the July 4th festivities, crowd size, safety and parking issues.*
- 2. The playground was also deemed an important asset to be maintained.*

*Concerning new amenities and uses:*

- 1. There were varying opinions in this area of discussion. With respect to maintaining existing amenities during any reconstitution of the park, two members expressed that open green space, existing trees and monuments be maintained in their present locations.*
- 2. A great majority of members expressed that there is an unique opportunity to build upon one of Havre de Grace's greatest tourism draws, that of our arts and entertainment assets. This can be achieved in two important ways, by utilizing the park to showcase public art such as sculpture and artistic landscaping and the use of the natural amphitheater for a performance bandshell and seating.*

*As said earlier, the playground is recognized as an important asset to the park.*

*Most members believe the idea that has been bantered about of a new "handicap-friendly" children's playground is a positive one and one that can become a regional tourism draw due to its unique characteristic. Others are concerned about expansion, relocation of the playground and loss of open green space that is also considered a draw for visitors and locals.*

*Members expressed the need for upgrading landscaping and lighting. Upgraded lighting can serve a dual purpose of safety and to accent the beauty of creative landscaping.*

*Another important upgrade that was mentioned is that of functional seating and tables. Here again there is an opportunity for creatively designing functionality that is ergonomic and pleasing to the eye.*

**Public Input Session**

*In conclusion, most of our members recognize the great opportunity that lies before us.*

*Whatever changes are instituted by the City they should be done with creativity and appreciation for what will enhance the reputation of Havre de Grace as a unique regional tourist destination.*

*Graciously Submitted by William Watson,  
Chair - Havre de Grace Tourism Advisory Board*

- c. Arts Commission
  - i. Chair, Pat Fair, President
  - ii. Pleased with the park and the facilities.
  - iii. Used for 20 years for Concerts in the Park
  - iv. Gazebo used seven (7) times per year
  - v. Electricity is important.
  - vi. Both sides used.
    - 1. Right side used more prevalently due to proximity of the playground.
  - vii. Bathrooms appreciated
  - viii. Snack bar appreciated
  - ix. Children's Arts Festival
    - 1. Fits into the use well
    - 2. Shade
    - 3. Ample space
    - 4. Recommendations:
      - a. Scarecrow area between two large trees that needs to be addressed due to lack of grass.
      - b. Ground is hard and root-borne.
    - 5. Other side of park used for petting zoo
    - 6. Sometimes teepees set up for children.
  - x. Enjoy the way the park is now.
- d. Parks & Harbor Committee
  - i. Chair, Steve Young (not present)
- e. Havre de Grace Recreation Committee
  - i. Chair, John Narvell
  - ii. Lewis Fillinger,
  - iii. Recreation & Leisure is separated into two categories; active and passive.
  - iv. Active Recreation
  - v. Passive Recreation
  - vi. Many and diverse uses with a wide array.
  - vii. Serves as everything to everyone.
  - viii. Guidelines
    - 1. Safety

**Public Input Session**

2. Community use
3. Community desire
4. Maintenance
5. Master Plan
6. Phase of community project
- ix. Status quo would be a successful finding.
- x. New:
  1. Sidewalk along commerce street (850 LF) - included in a recommendation for 2015.
  2. Handicap accessible playground upgrades.
  3. Repair lights on Commerce Street and elsewhere
  4. Eliminate trip hazards.
  5. Continued maintenance; kudos to the City.
- f. Havre de Grace Independence Celebration Incorporated
  - i. Chair, Charlie Mike
  - ii. Formal comments provided as follows:

***Havre de Grace Independence Celebration Inc.***

**A. Background**

- a. *Formed in 1987, after previous committee disbanded*
- b. *Incorporated in 1987 and reorganized as a 501C3 organization*
- c. *Committee membership has fluctuated over the years with between 8-12 members*
- d. *Currently have 9 members, who attend most meetings and share responsibilities.*
- e. *Three of these 9 members have been with committee since inception*

**B. Events and Planning**

- a. *3 Major components of our celebration-*
  - i. *Parade*
  - ii. *Carnival*
  - iii. *Concert w/ fireworks*
- b. *Parade and concert w/ fireworks always held on the Saturday or Sunday as close the 4<sup>th</sup> of July as possible, with carnival occurring the week preceding the parade.*
  - i. *This enables the citizens and their guests to enjoy the events outside of a work week schedule.*
  - ii. *This schedule also allows the committee to attract bands and other groups to appear in our parade because we are not competing with other major parades in the area that are held on July 4<sup>th</sup>.*
- c. *Tydings Park is the center of all events – parade ends at the park, carnival held in the park and concert and fireworks held in the park.*
- d. *Tydings Park is the only public space in the city large and suitable enough for all of these events and because it is the single most popular spot in Havre de Grace, it is appropriate to host these events.*

**C. Committee's Continuous Improvement Record**

**Public Input Session**

- a. *Over the years the committee has made great strides in improving the parade, carnival and fireworks to make them a “family friendly” event and help the Police & DPW of HdG in managing these events.*
- b. *Carnival improvements include eliminating “problem Attractions” like the Big 6 Wheel and Punching bag.*
- c. *3 large signs stating “This is a family event, appropriate behavior is expected.” Are erected at entrance points to the carnival.*
- d. *Committee works with carnival management on their set-up procedures with “do’s and don’ts” affecting the park ground and facilities.*
- e. *Hours of operation are such that we are considerate of the surrounding neighborhood.*
- f. *Portable lights are brought in (by the committee) to illuminate the park after 9:30pm for safety reasons.*
- g. *Committee arranges and pays for a clean-up crew, who clean up the park and surrounding Commerce Street residential area daily during the events.*
- h. *Committee works with HdG DPW to regulate NO PARKING areas around Tydings Park neighborhoods during the events, for the safety and convenience of the residents in and around Tydings Park.*
- i. *Committee works closely with HdG DPW to control the overall cost of the event.*

**D. Financial Information**

- a. *Carnival Income is 45% of total revenue (See 2014 Statement)*

**STATEMENT as of September 2, 2015**

**INCOME**

<i>Personal Donations</i>	<i>8,209.05</i>
<i>Business Donations</i>	<i>11,671.00</i>
<i>Other Donations</i>	<i>15,687.18</i>
	<i>(includes two large donations from private individuals)</i>
<i>Fundraisers/Raffles</i>	<i>6,067.00</i>
<i>Carnival Revenue</i>	<i>26,542.60</i>
<i>Vendors</i>	<i>7,346.69</i>
<i>T-Shirts</i>	<i>810.00</i>

**TOTAL INCOME                    76,333.52**

**EXPENSES**

<i>Telephone</i>	<i>429.51</i>
<i>Postage</i>	<i>29.40</i>
<i>Insurance</i>	<i>4,005.00</i>
<i>General Expense</i>	<i>639.91</i>
<i>Fireworks</i>	<i>22,200.00</i>
<i>Parade</i>	<i>39,617.24</i>
<i>Concert</i>	<i>6,139.97</i>
<i>T-Shirts</i>	<i>831.00</i>

**TOTAL EXPENSES**      **73,892.03**

**Net Gain**                      **2,441.49**

- b. *There is a public misconception that the City of HdG funds these events. The city does provide excellent support with HdG Police & DPW, as well as the support we receive from the Susquehanna Hose Co. & HdG Ambulance Corps.*
  - c. *Financial Statement above shows Committee works continuously to raise for funds for these events.*
- E. **Closing Statement** – *Our committee works on a continuous tight time frame. As soon as one event is over, we begin planning for next year’s event. All committee members spend countless hours during the year on donation letters, fundraisers, soliciting event sponsors, contracting bands and other groups and all other necessary details. One of these necessary details is negotiating the contract with the carnival, which should be completed by November. Our committee has made every effort to make this a family friendly event. Our goal is to attract young families to the carnival. To this end we have kept the prices the same for the past 3 years. We strongly feel that removing these events from Tydings Park is unnecessary, unreasonable and unrealistic in light of the financial needs of this event.*

iii. NOTE: Public input session scheduled for 17 November 2015, 6 - 8PM.

g. Public Safety Committee

i. HdG Police Department - Chief Teresa Walter

- 1. Thanks for including the services.
- 2. Many different factors considered when reviewing an event application:

- a. Type and Size of the Event
- b. Target audience
  - i. Scale of resource needs will be factored
- c. Food & Alcohol consumption
  - i. Manpower
  - ii. Liquor control board
- d. Equipment to be brought in
  - i. Size
  - ii. What will it do.
  - iii. HAZMAT risk
  - iv. Placement for line of sight, risk mitigation, etc.
    - 1. Critical to emergency response.
  - v. Evacuation concerns
    - 1. Weather
    - 2. Emergencies
    - 3. Threat response

## Public Input Session

- e. Road closures
    - i. HdG PD do not like events that expand onto Commerce Street due to emergency vehicle impacts.
    - ii. Impact to surrounding neighborhoods
      - 1. Pedestrian foot traffic
      - 2. neighbors
      - 3. parking
    - f. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
      - i. All considered when reviewing public safety.
    - g. Worst case always considered
  - ii. Susquehanna Hose Company, Scott Hurst
    - 1. Road closures impact response to the Company boat in the Yacht Basin
  - iii. Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps
    - 1. Special planning groups are established to support large event such as the Independence Day Celebrations.
  - h. Public Works Commission
    - i. Chair,
  - i. Harford County Public Library (at their request)
    - i. Irmgarde Brown, Branch Manager
    - ii. Offered consideration for new incorporation.
      - 1. Storywalks
        - a. Four (4) have been established in cooperation with the City.
        - b. 48 permanent Story Walks have been established nationwide.
        - c. Electronic comments to follow.
        - d. Seventeen (17) permanent stanchions that would be installed to interact with the Library to be updated regularly.
          - i. Book elements and physical activities included in the activities.
        - e. Previous iterations provided at Tydings Park, North Park/Joe K trail, Lighthouse, Lockhouse/Riverfront.
7. Recess at 6:30 to reconvene at 6:45
8. Input from Public
  - a. Commentors advised: Please keep comments limited to 3 minutes per individual. A timer is displayed on the television screen to remind the presenter.
  - b. Alan Fair, 3 Concord Place
    - i. Appreciate format.
    - ii. Park is not broke, don't fix it.
    - iii. Sidewalks, grass, tree roots, memorial cleanup.



**Public Input Session**

- iv. Circle benches around the memorial or around the trees to minimize wear and tear.
  - v. Playground can be expanded, but don't relocate
    - 1. many different groups use the playground for various uses in and around the park
    - 2. Majority of uses are the the left of the swale, don't separate families.
  - vi. Additional benches and tables to support the well use.
  - vii. Bandstand/bandshell
    - 1. Recommended location: Lighthouse.
  - viii. Independence day celebration
    - 1. highly supportive of their efforts and everything they do.
    - 2. Would not like to see the carnival relocated or fireworks moved.
  - ix. Swale
    - 1. Remember back 60 years
    - 2. SLedding during the winter continues to this day.
  - x. Would not like to see the park become prestigious.
  - xi. More lighting, et.c
  - c. Barry Kline, 813 S. Adams.
    - i. New Member of City, moved here in 2012
    - ii. Love the City, park, etc.; moved here for the uses.
    - iii. Marina was a major draw for him
      - 1. boat launch, remains contemporary
      - 2. No yearly launch fee for the marina.
      - 3. Individual use fees and services are very inconvenient for a City resident.
    - iv. Spoke with Mayoral candidates during last election, feels he was only given lip service.
    - v. Has an array of receipts, willing to pay for a valuable launch permit.
    - vi. Feels he is being taken advantage of.
    - vii. D. Martin - please sent comments
    - viii. J.
  - d. G. Lytle - 308 Miller Court
    - i. Reporting times for the commission.
    - ii. Member of the Independence Day Commission
    - iii. Concerns about the timeline impacts on the Independence Day celebrations.
    - iv. Hitchings - recommendations on time impacts of deliberations
  - e. Joe K. Tydings Park
    - i. Reference 27 July 2015 e-mail
- Dear Mayor and Council,*

**Public Input Session**

*I listened with interest to the comments regarding the parks situation in HDG. I make the following comments after a brief consideration of the topic.*

*Government at all levels is pretty good at building new things but is not so good at maintaining those amenities it has already created. This is nobody's direct fault but is the desire to brand something new on "their watch" which can be pointed to with pride and ownership. I may have been a party to this philosophy in my years at APG and with the City. Good maintenance should not suffer because of the desire to create something new.*

*Sometimes we have taken the position that it is not our money but a grant which is creating something; however, as we all know, it is the public's money and we are the public, whether at the County, State or National level. Often maintenance is not visible as with underground utilities (water, sewer, storm water management) - many times streets, curbs, sidewalks, and gutters which are not flashy items do not receive the attention they deserve - and sometimes the "latest and greatest" trump good enough.*

*Where am I going with this ?*

*For example, we have what I believe is the biggest tourist attraction in the County with the promenade. The walkway needs some or a lot of redecking as well as repair to the appurtenances (gazebo, kiosks). There is about \$130,000 in the promenade fund (derived from half of the building permit fees) which could be applied to its maintenance and I suspect that \$130,000 is not enough to rehab it.*

*Tydings Park - by and large I feel this is a case of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" and I don't think it is broken. Unfortunately, the most popular item at the playground (the carousel) was removed several years ago because of safety concerns so if there is a safe replacement for that piece of equipment, I believe that would be a worthwhile investment. As far as high tech items and bells and whistles, I don't see the need. There has been concern with the mixture of preschoolers, elementary kids and adolescents not blending well, as the smaller kids tend to get overwhelmed by the bigger ones. It might be worth it to consider expanding McLhinney Playground on Locust Road with the emphasis on younger children or creating a kiddie playground on the new property on Concord Street - this could have the effect of separating the age groups. Some level of tweaking is probably warranted for Tydings Park but not a wholesale redo or major addition is needed.*

*We have been successful in obtaining grant funds to build a number of things which, because they are relatively new, have not yet required maintenance of any great magnitude - but, they are aging daily. So something needs to be put aside to fund that.*

*The Water Street park area will be a fine venue someday and will greatly help the north end of the City; however, with the pending Amtrak bridge issue looming in the next 10-15 years (my estimate), it might be prudent to mark time until that construction is completed. It would seem likely that those properties are prime locations for construction staging which is likely to disrupt/destroy any significant park improvements. I think the City should consider making a deal with Amtrak whereby Amtrak could use the properties for staging but in return Amtrak would build whatever facility the City would like to see there after the construction is complete.*

**Public Input Session**

*As most of you know, I'm a pretty conservative guy so I'd prefer to expend funds on the everyday operations of the City so that the tax rate can support bread and butter items rather than glitz. In spite of efforts being taken to improve the state of the Fund 9 debt situation, I feel that Fund 1 will be supporting Fund 9 for quite some time.*

*Thanks for letting me get this off my chest.*

*joek*

- f. Michael Hatem 108 Market Street
  - i. Formerly of Commerce Street
  - ii. Carnival as essential to keep in it's state.
  - iii. Please don't close commerce Street.
- g. John Racinas (?), 800 S. Stokes Street
  - i. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
  - ii. Please don't relocate the playground.
  - iii. Make playground ADA compliant
  - iv. Close to restrooms
  - v. Child/parent oversight
  - vi. Grass/trees/open spaces are supported
  - vii. Sidewalks along Commerce are needed
  - viii. More picnic tables, including in the west side flat area.
  - ix. Parking:
    - 1. Others consider that there is not a parking problem.
    - 2. Perpendicular parking may cause risks
  - x. PRomenade is the best viewing area the City has.
    - 1. Maybe add a few more benches
  - xi. Swale
    - 1. Open area used all year round.
    - 2. Terracing or bandshell would restrict its use in various seasons.
  - xii. Gazebo
    - 1. Historic item?
    - 2. Repair and keep it as it is.
  - xiii. Special Events
    - 1. Add wear and tear on the park.
    - 2. Maybe relocate some smaller events.
    - 3. Larger events do apply stress, but don't appear to be breaking the park.
- h. Kyle Bond, 409 Heather Way
  - i. New resident, 5 years ago; father of three
  - ii. Shared story of his daughter's use of Tydings Park today as part of the Patriot Program.
    - 1. Part of the program is drawing part of the Park.

## Public Input Session

- iii. Appreciate the efforts of the Commission.
- iv. Significant changes that can be incorporated
  - 1. Sidewalks
  - 2. Staircase from upper level to the bathroom areas. It is very risky. The risk is very slippery when wet, etc.
- v. Potentially add another set of restrooms.
  - 1. Current restroom set is a significant walk from parts of the park, including the playground.
- vi. Parking
  - 1. Commerce Street seems limited on weekends and nice evenings.
  - 2. Potentially investigate type of parking along Commerce Street.
- vii. Great social environment for everyone, not just from Havre de Grace (also Aberdeen, Perryville, etc.)
  - 1. ADA compliance will make it more of a destination. (i.e., Annie's Playground)
- viii. Supportive of the Story Walk.
- ix. General improvements as they benefit everyone.
- i. C. Mike; Superior Street
  - i. Survey - place in Record & Aegis. Place hard copies at City Hall. Advertise.

9. Adjourn: 7:25PM

**NOTE:** Presentation shown on television screens to attendees at 6:00PM session start. Presentation attached to these notes.



# Tydings Park Commission Public Input Session

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03 November 2015  
6-8PM



# Agenda

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1. Commission Charter
2. Objectives
3. Commission Progress
4. Items discussed and considered
5. Photos from Tydings Park
6. Input from Commissions, Committees and selected Groups (6-7 PM)
7. Input from Public (7-8 PM)
8. Adjourn

NOTE: These proceedings are being recorded to help with transcription.

# Commission Charter

---

- Created Under Executive Order 2015-02
- Duties:
  - Review state of the park
  - Review uses of the park
  - Assess potential uses for the park
  - Assess viability of potential uses
  - Provide recommendations to Mayor & Council
- Consists of twelve (12) members
  - Eight (8) Citizens of Havre de Grace
  - Two (2) Council members
  - Two (2) City staff members
- Introduction of Members

# Objectives

---

First report due to Mayor and City Council

18 December 2015

Supplemental/Summary report due to Mayor and City Council

01 February 2016



# Commission Progress

---

Meets twice monthly generally on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

The Commission has:

- Conducted on site and sit-down meetings

- Established a survey: [www.havredegracemd.com/tydings-park-survey/](http://www.havredegracemd.com/tydings-park-survey/)

No decisions have been made at this point.

The Commission is collecting information and looking at all alternatives.

# Items Discussed and Considered

---

- a. Observation platform with pay-per-use binoculars
- b. New/Larger/Relocated playground
  - i. one playground with mixed use
  - ii. multiple playgrounds for typical and ADA tailored playgrounds.
- c. Upgrade and/or larger gazebo
- d. Splash / Misting park
- e. Portable stage with permanent hookup at swale

# Items Discussed and Considered

---

- f. Tiered/Terraced hill
- g. Tiered/Terraced swale
- h. Upgraded sidewalks
- i. Additional/Upgraded bathrooms
- j. Additional parking by angled in parking on Commerce Street
- k. Recommend relocation of heavy use events in park to alternate locations.
- l. Additional/Feature lighting



# Input Session

---

6 - 7 PM - Selected Committees and Commissions

Please keep comments limited to 5 minutes per group/organization

7 -8 PM - General Public

Please keep comments limited to 3 minutes per individual

Please keep all comments directed at the park, its use, and your recommendations for future use. Please do not direct your comments at individuals; and please do not single out events. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in being asked to leave the podium.

# Tydings Park Commission

Regular Meeting

18 November 2015



## Committee Members:

Michael Hitchings, City Council, Chairperson  
David Martin, City Council  
Mark Hemler, Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps  
Scott Hurst, Chief, Susquehanna Hose Company  
Mary Martin (ABSENT)  
James Clark  
Jan Vanderhoff  
Darryl Leonetti  
Philip Powell  
Debby Stathes  
Patrick Sypolt - Director of Administration (ABSENT)  
John Allen - Directorate of Public Works (ABSENT)

## Location:

City Hall, Meeting Room

Convene: 605P

## **Discussion/Notes:**

### Old Business

1. Public Input Session Review
  - a. Comments that received applause:
    - i. Park needs detailing, not rebuilding (attributed to Joe K.)
    - ii. Maintain the park.
    - iii. Playground is centrally located and supports good parental supervision.
    - iv. Sidewalks, pathways, bathrooms, and ADA compliance.
  - b. Other Unique Recommendations
    - i. Wi-fi in the park
    - ii. Cell phone charging station
    - iii. Get rid of Park Island / Do something with Park Island.
    - iv. Story walk incorporation with Harford County Public Library.
  - c.
- 2.

### New Business

1. Proposed report format.
  - a. Review of proposed format, requesting support for addressing each element.
  - b. Include Survey results as an appendix, but reference community feedback in each element.
  - c. D. Martin - Under item 6, include park benches, grills, etc.



- d. Aside: P. Powell - it would be good to have a year's summary of the park
  - i. Photos and summary data of traffic in the park:
    - 1. Starting conditions
    - 2. Parking use (time of day considered)
    - 3. Activities within the park before/after
    - 4. Analysis of use of the park
    - 5. All pictures/data recorded from the same vantage points.
  - ii. This data would allow us to consider and apply the recommendations evenly.
- e. Hitchings - approached JD Lawn Service and Aldino Sod farms seeking recommendations.
- f. Sections
  - i. Playground - D. Leonetti, J. Vanderhoff, D. Stathes
    - 1. Needs to incorporate ADA compliance
    - 2. Will likely need to increase in size.
    - 3. Location is indeterminate, but the City should consider soliciting concept recommendations from playground manufacturers, to include how to lay it out, where to place it, and how to make it functionally feasible.
  - ii. Lighting - P. Powell, Hitchings
  - iii. Swale - D. Stathes, Hitchings
    - 1. General thoughts -
      - a. keep it with the current use, but provide some basic improvements to the turf, etc.
      - b. recommend that boat parking be relocated from this location to the space behind the Maritime Museum and Decoy Museum.
      - c. If we encourage use of the old tennis court areas, do we want to encourage kids to go back/forth through the boat parking.
  - iv. Band Shell - Hemler, Hurst
  - v. Other discussion
    - 1. Parking
      - a. If we increase parking on Commerce Street, could we add more boat parking in the basin?
      - b. We should include more handicap parking all around the park.
    - 2. Old tennis courts
      - a. D. Martin - potentially put a skateboard park & skating rink combination. If we don't use this land, we should find a use of it.
    - 3. Park use -

## Tydings Park Commission

Regular Meeting

18 November 2015



- a. D. Stathes - survey results show that people are using the park for reflection, more than playground or recreation use. Use it for the view and relaxation, rather than the "stuff."
  - g. Commission should bring back elements of the report on/before 09 December 2015 at next meeting.
2. Adjourn
- a. Future Meetings:
    - i. 09 December 2015 - Prepare Initial Submission
  - b. Future Milestone
    - i. 18 December 2015 - Initial Submission to Mayor & Council
    - ii. 21 December 2015 - Presentation to Mayor & Council (at Council Meeting)
  - c. Adjourn: 1930



# Tydings Park Commission

13 January 2016



Regular Meeting

## Committee Members:

Michael Hitchings, City Council, Chairperson

David Martin, City Council (ABSENT)

Mark Hemler, Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps (ABSENT)

Scott Hurst, Chief, Susquehanna Hose Company (ABSENT)

Mary Martin (ABSENT)

James Clark

Jan Vanderhoff

Darryl Leonetti

Philip Powell (ABSENT)

Debby Stathes

Patrick Sypolt - Director of Administration (ABSENT)

John Allen - Directorate of Public Works (ABSENT)

## Other Attendees:

John Amici - President, Commercial Recreation Products, LLC

Doug Sheredos - Site Resources, Inc.

## Location:

City Hall, Meeting Room

Convene: 605P

## **Discussion/Notes:**

### New Business

#### 1. Introductions:

- a. John Amici - President, Commercial Recreation Products, LLC
- b. Doug Sheredos - Site Resources, Inc.

### Old Business

#### 1. Review & Discussion of the draft report.

- a. Final report to be provided to Mayor & City Council on 21 March 2016
- b. Additional detail to be included in the report.
- c. Band shell type and location
- d. Lighting
- e. Playground location and equipment
  - i. Amici

#### 1. Playgrounds are generally broken down into two groups:

- a. Infants to 5 years old
- b. 6 years - 12 years old



2. For visually impaired children, an example is that kickplates between elevated platforms are brightly colored, braille is introduced, there are sound making elements, the decking includes orienting materials.
  3. Wheelchair bound participants may use a transfer station (looks like a stairway) or ramps that can take them up on the equipment.
  4. Swings - their ADA accessible swing has won awards (<http://www.aaastateofplay.com/little-tikes-inclusive-swing-seat/>).
  5. Their equipment is extremely heavy duty and rated for heavy abuse.
- ii. Leonetti - What should the surface be?
1. ~90% is the synthetic wood fiber or loose fill surface.
    - a. These require maintenance, operation, etc in order to meet their value for fall safety.
  2. Poured-in-place rubber surfaces have come down in cost.
    - a. Initial cost is higher
    - b. Maintenance is much easier / minimal
    - c. Drainage is managed
    - d. There are surfaces installed 15+ years ago that are still in place.
    - e. Oregon Ridge was installed 10 years ago, is very heavily used, and was recently touched up ~2 years ago in some high wear areas.
  3. Turf surfaces (shredded rubber)
    - a. Is there a true health risk associated with these?
  4. Runoff considerations (Critical Area Commission considerations)
    - a. Are we increasing more impervious surface?
      - i. The poured in place surface is a porous surface, as long as not installed over concrete.
- iii. What are some considerations for the playground?
1. How can we bring it up to date?
  2. Should we go thematic?
    - a. Incorporate the lighthouse into the playground with climbers and slides?
  3. How do we put the best foot forward for Havre de Grace?
  4. Current playground meets ADA guidelines, but does not make it necessarily inclusive.
  5. We are not stuck to the current playground catalog. Groups like Commercial Recreation Products can create custom ideas.
  6. How do we maximize the amount of inclusive elements and able bodied elements? Inclusive ratios?



- a. The idea is to have the two groups can play together by placing play elements adjacent to one another & support interactive play.
- b. There are guidelines to integrate elevated and ground level components. We don't need to stay at the minimum guidelines.
- iv. How do we move into a design development phase?
  1. Commercial Recreation Products would develop a setup based on the size and requirements parameters.
    - a. Rough size - estimate ~ 100' x 100'
    - b. Rough cost target ~\$250K
    - c. Rough cost estimate for poured in place surface is \$13/SF
    - d. Skipjack
    - e. Retain Chessie
    - f. Swings
      - i. regular swings and inclusive swings
      - ii. Swings in their current location for the view.
    - g. Lighthouse
- f. Swale area use
  - i. Place a ground level concrete pad at the south end of the swale for placement of the stage
  - ii. Soils need to be loosened up, revitalized, and allow for the grass to better stabilize and water to permeate into the soil.
  - iii. How do we establish a surface that supports growth?
    1. Roots cannot be covered without potentially impacting the tree itself.
- g. Grounds
  - i. Update, restore, address the gazebo. Potentially enlarge it.
  - ii. Terrace the south slope.
  - iii. Observation deck with view glasses.
  - iv. Place bathrooms adjacent to existing bathrooms, just on the upper level.
  - v. Trees, protect roots. Address existing plants.
- h. Sidewalks
  - i. Full sidewalk from Carrier House to the ramp into the lower parking areas.
  - ii. Provide for additional sidewalks around perimeter.
  - iii.
- i. Carnival -
- j. Seafood Festival
  - i. 2016 Havre de Grace Seafood Festival application was rejected by Council on 21 December 2016.
  - ii. Future Seafood Festivals are not functionally eliminated at this point.
- k. Special Events

# Tydings Park Commission

Regular Meeting

13 January 2016



- I.
2. Adjourn
  - a. City Council Meeting:
    - i. 21 December 2015 - Initial draft executive summary presented.
  - b. Future Meetings
    - i. 27 January 2016, 6PM
  - c. Subsequent report due 21 March 2016
  - d. Adjourn: ~1930

# Tydings Park Commission

27 January 2016



Regular Meeting

## Committee Members:

Michael Hitchings, City Council, Chairperson  
David Martin, City Council (ABSENT)  
Mark Hemler, Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps  
Scott Hurst, Chief, Susquehanna Hose Company  
Mary Martin  
James Clark  
Jan Vanderhoff  
Darryl Leonetti (ABSENT)  
Philip Powell (ABSENT)  
Debby Stathes  
Patrick Sypolt - Director of Administration (ABSENT)  
John Allen - Directorate of Public Works (ABSENT)

## Other Attendees:

None

## Location:

City Hall, Meeting Room

Convene: 605P

## **Discussion/Notes:**

### New Business

1.

### Old Business

1. Review & Discussion of the draft report. The following questions need to be addressed for the sections below
  - a. Questions:
    - i. How we want to present the final report?
    - ii. What information we still need to collect for the final report?
    - iii. What information we want presented in the conceptual design drawings?
  - b. Items to address in Report
    - i. Playground
      1. John Amici will make recommendations and provide a general conceptual plan.
      2. Recommend having him return to the 10 February 2016 meeting.
    - ii. Swale area use



1. The swale is heavily used right now for sledding. The largest challenge is the pavement in the bottom of the swale. This needs to be removed.
  2. The swale is very dark at night. If the park is used at night (concerts, sledding, parking, etc.) then maybe there should be some timed lighting.
  3. M. Hitchings will ask D. Leonetti if he wants to champion this effort.
- iii. Grounds Restoration
1. Seek professional recommendations from landscape architects, grounds maintenance staff, etc regarding how to restore the grounds.
    - a. J. Vanderhoff will be the primary point of contact with Site Resources.
  2. Recommend breaking the recommendation areas into four spaces:
    - a. traditional "park" area at the east end of the park
    - b. swale
    - c. old tennis court areas
    - d. slope from upper areas into the yacht basin
  3. Recommendations should include courses of action, scope of the work that would be done, and rough-order-of-magnitude (ROM) costs for these efforts (round to nearest thousand).
  4. Commission requests that the landscape architect provide a recommendation for bench/table/grill density within the park to maximize use, but not clutter the facility.
  5. J. Clark will champion this effort.
- iv. Sidewalks
1. Sidewalks should extend from one end of the park to the other, and connect to the new sidewalks being installed at the Bayou Condominiums.
  2. A sidewalk network will be recommended by the Landscape Architect.
- v. Carnival, Seafood Festival & Large Venue Events
1. The commission shall make a recommendation for the definition of a large venue event. (multi-day festivals, etc.)
  2. The committee can make recommendations regarding potential relocation of the Independence Day Celebration Carnival based on recommendations for grounds restoration, enhancement, etc.
    - a. The committee should also make recommendations on potential relocation places if relocation is included.



3. The committee can make recommendations regarding potential relocation of the large venue events based on recommendations for grounds restoration, enhancement, etc.
  - a. The committee should also make recommendations on potential relocation places if relocation is included.
4. Hitchings will champion this effort.
- vi. Special/Smaller Venue Events
  1. The commission shall make a recommendation for the definition of a small venue event. (small festivals, 5K walks/runs, concerts, etc.)
  2. The commission can make recommendations regarding the use and occupancy of the Park for smaller events, that have less of an impact on the grounds and facilities, provide less wear & tear, etc.
  3. The commission should seek recommendations from a landscape architect and/or professional engineer on use limitations, etc.
  4. Hitchings will champion this effort.
- vii. Other
  1. Parking
    - a. S. Hurst recommended placing additional parking along Commerce Street.
    - b. D. Stathes mentioned placing reverse-in herring bone parking that would minimize the amount of blind-backing onto Commerce Street
    - c. S. Hurst will do some research regarding the pros/cons for various parking solutions
    - d. M. Martin has concerns with the additional parking. She thinks there will be safety concerns, and believes that angled parking is generally ugly. It may impact the aesthetics of the park.
    - e. J. Vanderhoff does not think there are parking requirement issues. There is sufficient parking, from her perspective, with the exception of some very select events.
    - f. S. Hurst and M. Hemler will champion looking into this effort.
  2. Driving Considerations
    - a. Recommend to the Public Safety Committee that they review and consider reducing the speed limit in front of the park to 10 or 15 mph.
    - b. Recommend to the Public Safety Committee that they place a stop sign on Union Avenue at the south end.
    - c. S. Hurst and M. Hemler will champion looking into this effort.



3. Portable Stage

- a. S. Hurst and M. Hemler will champion the effort to make a formal recommendation for the Portable Stage.

2. Adjourn

- a. Future Meetings
  - i. 10 February 2016, 6PM
  - ii. 24 February 2016, 6PM
  - iii. 09 March 2016, 6PM
- b. Subsequent report due 21 March 2016
- c. Adjourn: ~1930



# Tydings Park Commission

10 February 2016



Regular Meeting

## Committee Members:

Michael Hitchings, City Council, Chairperson

David Martin, City Council (ABSENT)

Mark Hemler, Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps (ABSENT)

Scott Hurst, Chief, Susquehanna Hose Company (ABSENT)

Mary Martin (ABSENT)

James Clark (ABSENT)

Jan Vanderhoff (ABSENT)

Darryl Leonetti (ABSENT)

Philip Powell (ABSENT)

Debby Stathes

Patrick Sypolt - Director of Administration (ABSENT)

John Allen - Directorate of Public Works (ABSENT)

## Other Attendees:

John Amici - President, Commercial Recreation Products, LLC

Doug Sheredos - Site Resources, Inc.

## Location:

City Hall, Meeting Room

Convene: 605P

## **Discussion/Notes:**

### New Business

1. John Amici - Presentation of Initial Concept
  - a. Provided a handout of rendering and design. Showed design on laptop. (both will be provided to the Commission)
  - b. Swings will be refreshed.
  - c. "Chessie" the dragon will be retained
  - d. The see-saw snake will try to be re-incorporated.
  - e. A flag post will be added to the top of the lighthouse.
  - f. City colors of dark blue, light blue, gold, and white will be emphasized.
2. Doug Sheredos - Presentation of Initial Concept
  - a. To open up the viewshed; there is likely some value to selectively pruning of some of the trees to raise the base of the canopy.
  - b. There are some slow challenges within the park the create pedestrian conflicts, etc.
  - c. Doug will work to incorporate some discussed changes.
  - d. Doug will also work to see if he can prepare a rough order of magnitude cost estimate (\$50k round figures) for the next meeting.



Old Business

1. Review & Discussion of the draft report.
  - a. The first draft of the report of the report target is 24 February 2016
  - b. The draft-final version of the report should target 09 March 2016
  - c. Final report presentation will be at the 21 March 2016 City Council meeting.
2. Portable Stage
  - a. S. Hurst and M. Hemler have provided recommendations for the Portable Stage which will be incorporated into the report.
3. Adjourn
  - a. Future Meetings
    - i. 24 February 2016, 6PM
    - ii. 09 March 2016, 6PM
  - b. Subsequent report due 21 March 2016
  - c. Adjourn: ~1940

# Tydings Park Commission

25 February 2016



Regular Meeting

## Committee Members:

Michael Hitchings, City Council, Chairperson

David Martin, City Council

Mark Hemler, Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps

Scott Hurst, Chief, Susquehanna Hose Company (ABSENT)

Mary Martin

James Clark

Jan Vanderhoff

Darryl Leonetti

Philip Powell

Debby Stathes

Patrick Sypolt - Director of Administration (ABSENT)

John Allen - Directorate of Public Works (ABSENT)

Convene: 605P

## **Discussion/Notes:**

### New Business

1. None

### Old Business

1. Parking

a. D. Stathes shared the following concerns via e-mail:

- i. More Parking: have we given thought to prospective numbers of Park visitors in terms of numbers expected, numbers who can be accommodated, and optimal numbers?
- ii. Safe Parking: are we chasing the impossible? Can we realistically achieve "safe parking?"
- iii. Creating a visual parking lot on Commerce Street would greatly - and negatively - impact the character of the Park.

b. M. Martin said she really does not like diagonal parking, and has not observed any parking issues in the area other than during events (and we are not going to solve that issue).

- i. She would prefer retaining parallel parking.
- ii. Making diagonal parking will make it look like a grocery store and remove the quaint nature of the park.
- iii. P. Powell - parallel parking is probably safer and will reduce the number of door dings
- iv. D. Leonetti - The parallel parking is likely safer.

2. Sidewalks - The Site Resourced team presented a concept where there would be extensive sidewalks throughout the park.



Regular Meeting

- a. There should be a sidewalk along the full length of Tydings Park at Commerce Street.
  - b. The group would like to see the concept of having a long ramp connecting the end of the promenade and the upper part of the park.
    - i. From the east side of the existing bathrooms to the west end of the playground at ~475 feet.
3. Carnivals and Festivals
- a. The Independence Day Festival will not be moved out of the park in 2016
    - i. M. Martin really likes the carnival in the park.
  - b. Other high traffic and high impact festivals should consider other well suited locations in the City
    - i. Concord Point Park - old Gamatoria property and around the Lighthouse.
    - ii. Hutchins Park extending up Market Street
      1. This would provide for a containable food/alcohol area
      2. This could extend up the roadways on Market Street
      3. This would bring business into downtown
    - iii. North Park around the Lockhouse grounds
4. Report Draft
- a. Commission Members have been provided with a copy of the current draft (attached to these minutes).
  - b. M. Hitchings is asking the members to all take an opportunity to read through the report and provide comments where we can build on the robust nature of the report.
  - c. We should really try and capture some of the very intense and very beneficial give/take from our discussions in this report to show the pro's and con's discussed to date. This will help the report be more dynamic.
5. Adjourn
- a. Future Meetings
    - i. 09 March 2016, 6PM
  - b. Subsequent report due 21 March 2016
  - c. Adjourn: ~1940

# Tydings Park Commission

Regular Meeting

09 March 2015



## Committee Members:

Michael Hitchings, City Council, Chairperson

David Martin, City Council

Mark Hemler, Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps

Scott Hurst, Chief, Susquehanna Hose Company (ABSENT)

Mary Martin

James Clark

Jan Vanderhoff

Darryl Leonetti

Philip Powell

Debby Stathes

Patrick Sypolt - Director of Administration (ABSENT)

John Allen - Directorate of Public Works (ABSENT)

## Other Attendees:

John Amici - President, Commercial Recreation Products, LLC

Doug Sheredos & Stacy Fisher - Site Resources, Inc.

Convene: 605P

## Discussion/Notes:

### New Business

1. J. Amici - Updated presentation of the playground design.
  - a. Updated design provided to the Commission (electronically).
2. D. Sheredos & S. Fisher - Updated presentation of the landscape engineering.
  - a. Updated design presented to the Commission.

### Old Business

1. Report Draft
  - a. Commission Members have been provided with a copy of the current draft (attached to these minutes).
  - b. M. Hitchings revised the format and composition of the report to take it from an outline format to a narrative format. This format provides more meat and analysis to the discussion.
    - i. Action Item: Please review the report this week for any comments to be incorporated into the final report. Please provide comments by mid-day on Monday, 14 March 2016.
  - c. The final report will be bound (in a binder) with tabbed appendices, a formal cover, and all materials included. This will be a formal transmittal.
2. Report/Presentation

## Tydings Park Commission

Regular Meeting

09 March 2015



- a. The report will be submitted to the Mayor & Council before close of business on Friday, 18 March 2016 as a read-ahead copy.
  - b. The report & presentation will be presented at the Council meeting on 21 March 2016.
    - i. The meeting starts at 7PM.
    - ii. If Commission members can be there, you are highly encouraged to attend.
    - iii. We will likely be on the agenda somewhere around 7:15 - 7:30.
    - iv. The presentation will include visuals shown on the screens.
    - v. The Commission will receive official recognition before the Mayor and Council for their tireless efforts!
3. Adjourn
- b. Future Meetings
    - i. We're there folks!!!!
  - c. Subsequent report due 21 March 2016
  - d. Adjourn: ~1920